STOURBRIDGE CHRONICLE

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Pudsey's a hit

Merry Hill crowds flock to meet BGT's dancing dog

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Memory Lane

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Man of the match Stewart helps Saxons tame the Lions

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BREWERY PLANS TO TAKE ON MORE PUBS

by Lee Watton

AN historic brewery is looking to take on more pubs in the region as expansion of the business continues to gain pace.

Holden's Brewery of Woodsetton is already carrying out extension work and there are plans to open a visitor centre and relaunch tours of the site in George Street when the project has been completed.

As well as the production boost, bosses have announced they are looking to expand the number of pubs owned by the brewery.

It already has 20 pubs across the area.

The brewery wants to boost this figure further and is on the lookout for suitable sites to become available.

The brewery took over the Fellows, in Dudley, around two years ago.

Bosses said it was a matter of finding appropriate pubs to take on which were on the market.

Searching

Director Abi Kemp, whose great-grandmother Lucy was a driving force behind establishing the brewery in 1915, said they were always looking to expand

She added: "We are looking to make additions to the number of pubs which are part of our estate and are searching for appropriate sites.

"This is a difficult process but we are committed not only to boosting our business but also looking after the pubs we have."

The extension of the brewery will allow production to be stepped up to 75,000 pints per week.

Other developments at the firm include a new bottle store, which is open for visitors to buy beers and merchandise, and offices for 10 members of staff.

Terror as shop staff held up at knifepoint

MASKED raiders armed with a foot-long kitchen knife and a screwdriver terrorised staff at a supermarket in Hagley, and threatened a group of heroes who tried to stop them.

Two robbers, wearing dark clothing and with their faces covered, struck at the Co-op Food store in Worcester Road, last Tuesday at about 7.25pm, and forced two members of the staff to hand over about £2,000 from the till.

Customers from the Station Inn, opposite the shop, went to help staff and it is believed they tried to stop the robbers from leaving by holding the door shut.

The raiders smashed glass in the door and threatened one of the good Samaritans with a knife before getting away in a black Nissan car which had been stolen about an hour earlier from the Ettingshall Park area of Wolverhampton.

Peter Rowbottom, of Kidderminster Road South, Hagley, said: "They threatened one of the people who tried to intervene with a knife, so they let them go."

The raid follows a spate of 20 break-ins and armed robberies at shops, included Co-ops, in Staffordshire and the Black Country.

Anyone with information can call 300 333 3000.

Go-ahead for hotel change

PLANS to convert a fire-hit hotel into apartments have had the go-ahead despite objections from residents and councillors

The Mount Hotel in Clent, near Stourbridge, was abandoned for three years after a fire.

A plan to convert it into seven apartments and build three detached houses on the site were approved by Bromsgrove District Council.

Residents were worried about traffic, and that the scheme was out of keeping with the conservation area.

Heating fear over gas main project

RESIDENTS fear that work to replace a gas main could leave them without heating ,

The work to replace 600 metres of gas mains in Broadway Avenue, Halesowen, has been going on for a week but people say they have not been kept informed. National Grid insists that letters were sent to properties in the area.

But Derek Lane, aged 70, has complained. He says he has been told his gas supply will be cut off, but he does not know when.

He added: "The area is a complete mess. There are piles of rubble everywhere. It is impossible to make contact with anyone in authority."

"It could be difficult if people have no heating or cooking for an extended time."

A National Grid spokesman said: "This work is essential." And he added: "Replacing a service pipe involves a brief disconnection of gas supply."

Man fined for dropping litter – in a bin

David Baker who says the decision to slap a fine on him is bureaucracy gone mad

A VOLUNTEER litter picker who kept Stourbridge town centre tidy, has been accused of dumping waste in street bins.

David Baker, aged 39, of Stourbridge, has been given a £75 fine and the threat of court action.

But he accused Dudley Council of "bureaucracy gone mad" for branding him a fly-tipper.

Mr Baker used to take to the streets of Stourbridge with bags from the council and a litter picker to clear rubbish. The council stopped supplying bags 18 months ago, so he used carrier bags to collect rubbish and put it in street litter bins.

But officials claim he has dumped bags full of crisp packets, pizza boxes and other litter in the bins.

Mr Baker, of Coventry Street, said: "I think it is outrageous that I should be fined for cleaning rubbish off the streets. How can people who want to put rubbish in the bin be fined?

Penalty

"To claim that what I put in the bin amounts to fly-tipping is crazy."

Environment boss Councillor Tracy Wood said: "Our enforcement officers issued a fixed penalty fine to Mr Baker after they found his domestic waste and letters in the litter bin on a number of occasions."

He added: "However, we will be reviewing the fine and speaking to Mr Baker."

Mr Baker said he may have put a couple of junk mail letters in the bin on his way out of the house on occasion, but did not put waste from his home into the bins.

£22m cuts plan raises fears over potholes

PLANS to cut nearly £22m from the Dudley Borough Council budget came under fire at a meeting last week.

The three year programme of savings would see services including road maintenance, care for the elderly, and youth services stripped back.

Councillor Patrick Harley, shadow cabinet member for transport, hit out at proposals to slash the budget for road maintenance by more than £800,000.

He told cabinet members, he said: "Withdrawing this funding will make Dudley the pothole capital of the Black Country. It will cost taxpayers more because the bill for filling in potholes will be rising."

Councillor Tim Wright also criticised the plans. He said: "Will people continue to invest in Dudley if they can't get from A to B because of the potholes and if the borough isn't attractive because green care has been cutback?"

Transport chief Judy Foster said a plan would be in place to ensure roads most at risk would be repaired as a priority.

"We are not going to take anything out of the potholes budget. They will continue to be addressed," she added.

The council says it needs to make savings of £10.7m in 2013 to 2014, £4.8m the following year, and £6.3m in 2015 to 2016.

Homes idea put on hold

A DECISION on plans for 200 new homes in Hagley has been put on hold.

Cala Homes wants to build 175 properties on part of the 350-acre Hagley Hall site on land bordered by the A456 Kidderminster Road and the A491.

A decision was expected from Bromsgrove District Council but people campaigning against the plan said the authority had put the matter back to December for more reports on the development's impact on the village.

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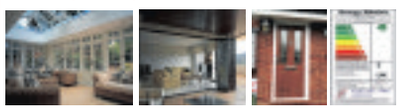

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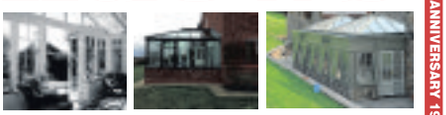

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Building firm objects to waste plant plan

THE developer behind a £2 million project to renovate part of a listed glassworks in Brierley Hill has objected to plans to build a waste recycling plant nearby.

Clean Power has lodged proposals for the 24-hour plant on land by the railway line off Moor Street, with Dudley Council. But Woodcock Construction which is refurbishing some of the listed buildings belonging to the former Royal Brierley Crystal works, says it is concerned about the proposals. A letter on behalf of managing director John Woodcock says the firm is worried about the proposed 82ft tall chimney and other buildings.

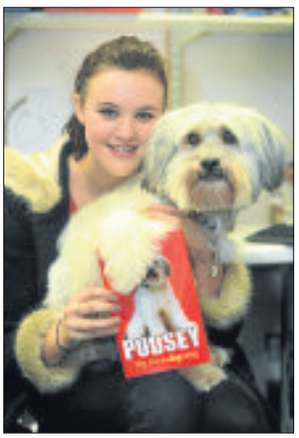
It is also worried about smoke and fumes from the site. In the letter the firm says its concerned that there could be "disturbance and noise to surrounding residential properties." The letter adds: "The use and siting is in conflict with the surrounding uses and is in an inappropriate location."

The Clean Power plant would be capable of generating enough electricity for 10,000 homes. It would have a warehouse, four outdoor tanks and four 82ft high flumes. The submission of the planning application follows a public consultation in Brierley Hill in June.

The company says it received 31 feedback forms from the event, of which 20 were positive. Bosses say the plant would have about 50 vehicle deliveries a day, although there could be a maximum of 100.

They also say it would release low carbon dioxide emissions and no odours.

Pudsey and Amy are big draws for stores



Pudsey, with owner Ashleigh Butler

The Pudsey queue at the Waterstones store in Merry Hill shopping centre

THE Black Country welcomed two celebrities. One is the most famous dog in the country, who won over the nation with his dancing skills on Britain's Got Talent – the other is a glamourpuss from Essex known for her perfectly-manicured appearance.

But while these reality TV stars couldn't be more different, both attracted scores of fans when they appeared at the Merry Hill shopping centre.

After wowing the crowds with his dancing skills, the first four-legged winner of talent show BGT is going to woo them with his writing – as he has published his own autobiography.

Pudsey along with owner Ashleigh Butler visited the shopping centre in Brierley Hill to meet his adoring fans and sign copies of the book called Pudsey: My Autobiography.

Dozens of people had lined up at the Waterstones shop, in the shopping centre to meet the six year old mongrel – border collie, bichon frise, Chinese crested cross – and his 17-year-old owner.

Pudsey sat next to Ashleigh whilst they signed copies of the book and greeted fans. The book which is written from Pudsey's point of view tells the story of his life before Britain's Got Talent and his training.

Ashleigh said: "It was really fun to do. We had to look back at his past and think about what it was like for him. It's great because all the animals in the book are real, and were part of our lives."

Adaptation

Pudsey is not shying away from the limelight as he is set to star in a Christmas film adaptation of David Walliam's book Mr Stink.

In between book signings and filming, the pair are now busily preparing for their Royal Variety Show appearance next month.

Ashleigh said: "Pudsey loves all the attention and loves getting his picture taken."

Of the Royal Variety Performance she said: "I'm really nervous and excited. We have been busy rehearsing, and I just want to make it really special, and we don't want to let anyone down. People know what we can do now, so they will be expecting a lot."

Meanwhile glamorous reality TV star Amy Childs greeted dozens of fans in Dudley, when she launched her new perfume.

The TOWIE star greeted fans at the Burnt Tree Tesco. The qualified beautician shot to fame in the ITV Bafta award winning show in 2010, where she worked in a beauty salon and dated club promoter Kirk Norcross. She said: "It's fantastic to be in Dudley, I've never been here before, and it's lovely to see so many people waiting to see me.

Jenna Wilkins, aged 23, who was in the queue to meet the star said: "Me and my sister love her, and so I have come to get the perfume for my sister's Christmas present.

"I really like Amy because she is not like the others, she has a good business head."

TOWIE star Amy Childs

Petitions put pool future in balance

ANGLERS were facing a showdown with campaigners this week over controversial fishing proposals for a beauty spot in Halesowen.

The opposing groups have submitted petitions arguing over the future of fishing in the pool at The Leasowes park.

Both petitions were being lodged at Halesowen Area Committee this week so councillors could hold a debate.

More than 200 anglers have signed up, demanding that a two-year ban on fishing at the pool is lifted by Dudley Council.

Dudley Council introduced the ban amid claims that wildlife was being harmed by dumped rubbish and equipment. Officials said the banks of the pool were damaged by anglers.

But the anglers' group, led by retired teacher Paul Thomas, say officials provided no evidence that they were responsible.

But a group of campaigners including residents and park users, have raised a counter petition with at least 160 signatures.

They ask the council not to reinstate the fishing. They claim the pool has improved with the ban.

Have a say on town's blueprint

FAMILIES will be able to have their say on a blueprint drawn up to help shape the future of Halesowen town centre.

Dudley Council's cabinet last week approved a proposal for a consultation on the Halesowen Area Action Plan. It will run from tomorrow (Friday) to December 12. The aim of the plan is to help guide investment and identify where shops, homes and leisure developments should go.

More than 200 surplus parking spaces have been identified in the town and it's hoped that some could make way for shops and businesses.

Council bosses are also keen to encourage new development by the River Stour.

For further information visit: www.dudley.gov.uk

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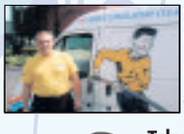

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Railway event to be biggest to date

THIS year's Warley National Model Railway Exhibition will be the biggest ever as the event celebrates its 20th year at the NEC, organisers said.

The 45th annual event which has been at the Birmingham venue for two decades will take place on November 24 and 24.

It will feature at least 96 working model railway layouts and there will be six layouts from outside the UK.

To celebrate the anniversary there will be four Warley Model Railway Club's own layouts on show – the Yardlea, 82G, Halesowen and Lea Bank. There will also be layouts from 10 Warley members.

More than 150 traders will be there – the largest model railway trade gathering in the UK – as well as 25 demonstrators showing off their skills. The show runs from 9.45am to 6pm on the Saturday and from 9.45am to 5pm on the Sunday.

Advance tickets are from £6.50 for children and £10.50 for adults. Family tickets are available and tickets will be on sale on the day.

Suicide verdict on tragic son

A GRIEVING son killed himself just hours after his mother died of cancer, an inquest heard.

Lee Homer was found hanged in the bathroom of the home he shared with his mother in Woods Lane, Quarry Bank.

The 41-year-old had left a note asking to be cremated on the same day as his mother, an inquest at Dudley Coroners Court was told.

Mr Homer suffered from mild learning difficulties and relied on his mother to look after him, deputy assistant coroner Angus Smillie said. His father had died 12 years earlier.

His mother died on March 19 at Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge but his family became worried when he did not collect her death certificate the following day.

Mr Smillie recorded a verdict of suicide.

Leading light in tennis world dies, aged 77

Tribute – Len Hanby

A MAN who was a leading light in the world of Black Country and Staffordshire tennis for almost five decades, has died after a six-year battle with cancer.

Len Hanby was noted for his fierce but good-humoured competitiveness on court – and still trusted his old wooden racket for many years, even after most of his opponents switched to more modern ones.

Mr Hanby, who died on October 25 in Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice, aged 77, served for 45 years on the committee of Wollaston Lawn Tennis Club and also held office for the Staffordshire county organisation.

He and wife Janet, were members of the Wollaston club in Stourbridge for 47 years, since it moved into its current base in Prestwood Drive, Stourton.

He served as president, chairman, treasurer and secretary and, despite his illness, was still active on club business until two weeks ago.

Mr Hanby, of Hagley Road, Pedmore, Stourbridge, was made a life member of the club in 1997 and served on Staffordshire Lawn Tennis Association Council – now Tennis Staffordshire – from 1970 to 2007.

He was its treasurer for eight years and became a vice president.

The Wollaston club's chairman, John Cutler, said: "He was a tireless and selfless worker for the club and was responsible for obtaining many grants and loans, in particular the lottery grant which raised £70,000 towards the fund to lay artificial grass on our courts."

He also enjoyed weekly snooker sessions and was still ringing the bells at St Thomas's Church in Stourbridge until recently.

Mr Hanby, who had a long career as an accountant, leaves his wife, Janet, son David, daughter Jane and two grandchildren.

His funeral is on November 13 at 10.45 am at Our Lady and All Saints Catholic Church, Stourbridge.

Activity hubs send number of visitors to parks soaring

VISITOR numbers have soared and reports of anti-social behaviour have fallen at parks in Dudley, including Stourbridge, since the opening of Healthy Hubs as part of a £4.5million project.

The new activity centres have been created in five of the borough's parks – Silver Jubilee in Coseley, Netherton Park, The Dell in Brierley Hill, Huntingtree Park in Halesowen, and Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge.

Council bosses say the number of visitors has increased thanks to the new programme of sport and activities on offer.

And they say there has been a drop in complaints about anti-social behaviour.

Dudley was awarded £4.5million Healthy Town funding to set up the Hubs in 2009.

They offer free outdoor gyms and a range of sporting activities and walks led by a ranger. Visitor numbers for the summer holiday programme increased from 365 in 2008 to 3965 in 2011.

Nuisance

The numbers dipped in 2012 because of the wet weather.

Visitor numbers are also up for activities such as health walks organised by the rangers. And all this has had a knock-on effect of reducing problems with people causing a nuisance in the parks.

Director of the urban enviornment John Millar said: "Evidence suggests there has been a reduction in anti-social behaviour.

"Not only do increased numbers of visitors act as a deterrent to nuisance, but the rangers can focus attention on nuisance and either engage with the youngsters through sport and physical activity, or call in the police when necessary."

Diabetes session could be life-saver

AN event to heighten awareness of diabetes to be held in Stourbridge, could save lives.

Visitors to the session, organised by Stourbridge and Kingswinford Lions Club, will be able to have free diabetes tests.

Barbara Dutton, the Lions club's diabetes officer, said that if anyone tested positive they could get advice and treatment that could save them from developing other conditions.

"People don't realise how serious diabetes is," said Mrs Dutton.

"It's the biggest killer in the UK because it can lead to serious heart conditions, liver and kidney problems and strokes."

The diabetes awareness event will be held on November 14 at 6.30 at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Vicarage Road, Amblecote.

Diabetes UK will carry out the tests, assessing not only whether people have diabetes, but also the risk of them developing the condition in the future and how to reduce that chance.

Susan Gillard, back left, Jason Bullas, Alan John, Nicky Birch, Ann Vaughan and Councillor Jill Nicholls taking part in the community clean-up

Residents muck in to give estate a facelift

A GROUP of residents turned to self-help when they decided that green areas near their homes in Halesowen needed to be tidued up.

An enthusiastic team of volunteers armed with litter-pickers, trowels and hedge shears got to work to give the public spaces at their housing estate a makeover.

Residents living at the Highfields estate had long called for improvements to be made to their homes and the community.

Now a project to update homes with new windows and central heating has been completed by Dudley Council.

The residents decided to finish the facelift themselves to clean up gardens and public areas near their homes.

Belle Vale Councillor Jill Nicholls, who help organise the project together with the council's housing department and probation service, said everyone was pleased with the project.

"Now that all the new double glazing and central heating work is completed residents had requested that all the green areas around the flats were in need of a tidy up," she said.

NEWS in brief

TUC in warning on child benefits

FREEZING child benefit will cost families with two children more than £400 over the next few years, according to a new study.

The TUC said the Government's decision would lead to a real-terms cut in child benefit of £57.20 this year, £153.40 in 2012/13 and almost £200 during 2013/14.

General secretary Brendan Barber said: "Freezing the value of child benefit has already hit millions of families , and by 2014 many will be over £400 worse off."

Mayor joins in with celebration

THE Mayor of Dudley took part in a special open day to celebrate a Caribbean group's 25 year anniversary.

Councillor Melvyn Mottram visited the New Testament Church in Holly Hall Road, Dudley.

The New Testament Welfare Association held the service to mark its milestone.

Other guests at the anniversary celebration included the renowned Jamaican folk singer Enid Weir.

Go for a jog in your lunch break

LUNCHTIME jogging and walking sessions are being offered every Friday.

People can meet outside Walsall Civic Centre entrance at 12.15pm for a 12.30pm start. The session lasts between 30 to 45 minutes and is free.

All sessions are led by trained jog leaders. People should call Stuart Terry or Richard Upton on 01922 658080 for information.

Maintenance at recycling plant

THE household waste recycling centre in Stourbridge has closed for four days to allow essential maintenance works to take place.

The Birmingham Street site closed at 6pm on Monday and will reopen at 8am on Saturday, November 10. Work is being undertaken to resurface the access road and to improve traffic flow at the centre.

Village's bazaar

A FESTIVE bazaar will be held at Stourton Village Hall on December 1 from 9.30am.

Call 01384 872073 or 07801 929034 for information or to book a stall.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

A READER writes: "If convicts in British jails are allowed to vote, will they be able to vote for police commissioners?"

AND talking of jail, did we all notice in Downton Abbey (ITV) that Mr Bates was as fit as a flea in the exercise yard at York Prison but limped and used a walking stick when he was set free? Very dodgy.

OWN up. As a fungal infection threatens to wipe out Britain's ash trees, how many of us can actually identify an ash tree?

OUR changing language. An American forecaster, describing the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, referred to deep flooding as "multi-feet inundation."

WE may not think much of weather forecasters but consider this. Superstorm Sandy struck a population of 50 million Americans who had been given several days' warning. About 60 fatalities have been reported. In the days before weather forecasting, the Great Storm of November 1703 ripped across an unprepared England with a population of just five million. In the space of 24 hours it killed 8,000 people.

HOW computers work. I bought a pair of boots on eBay. The next day, I logged on to find that eBay had already selected items I might be interested in buying, namely three more pairs of boots. Computers don't understand that when you have bought a pair of boots, the last thing you are likely to want is another pair of boots. I was actually looking for a vegetable rack. Geeks are always talking about artificial intelligence, as though it is just around the corner. When they develop a computer program that can make the connection between boots and a vegetable rack, that will be the time to start worrying.

TWO developments on the burglary front deserve watching. The first is the Government announcing open season on burglars caught red-handed. Check the small print carefully, but the new guidelines seem to suggest we can whack them very hard indeed. The second development is the news this week that half of all burglars, including many with more than 12 convictions, are given fines or community service rather than jail. How long will it be before a householder batters a burglar to death and the dead man's family sue the judge for giving the burglar his liberty, and thus allowing him to carry on robbing, instead of locking him safely up in prison?

THE Duchess of Cornwall has apparently booked into a "holistic health centre" in southern India for a regime of "spiritually healing" ayurvedic massages. She is dabbling in what some people call alternative medicine, some call complementary medicine and others call complete cobblers. One of the most outspoken sceptics was Nigella Lawson's first husband, the late, great columnist John Diamond. When he found himself dying of a particularly cruel form of cancer in the late 1990s, Diamond investigated some of the alternatives to Western medicine and concluded that West was best. From beyond the grave, Diamond has this massage for Camilla: "It's easy for the well-fed metropolitan with time and money on his hands to talk about dealing with his chronic symptoms with ayurvedic medicine or Chinese herbal therapies . . . but if you go to the countries where those remedies are all they have, you'll find them crying out for good old Western antibiotics, painkillers and all the rest of the modern and expensive pharmacopoeia."

INCIDENTALLY, the Duchess is said to be "taking a break". From what?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Centre work has hit business, say traders

UPHEAVAL caused by a £50 million development in Stourbridge has become a hot potato – with hot food sellers complaining that business has been hit by the work.

Robert and Yvonne Bridgewater, who have sold jacket potatoes and hot and cold drinks from a van in The Ryemarket for 18 years, say the number of people passing through has dropped by 30 per cent. They blame the fall on the redevelopment of the Crown Centre. The construction of a new Tesco store there has included the demolition of the Bell Street multi-storey car park.

The pair say they are committed to the town and hope that the Tesco will eventually revive trade. But, in the meantime, they have asked for permission to sell baked potatoes from a similar stand at the junction of High Street and Peckingham Street in Halesowen.

Dudley Council's licensing sub committee approved their application.

Mr Bridgewater told the sub-committee last week: "We want to share the two sites. With the rejuvenation of Stourbridge and the demolition of the car park, footfall has dropped considerably."

Following the meeting Mr Bridgewater said: "Footfall is down by about 30 per cent...but we have many loyal customers working in shops, banks and other businesses."

Two Stourbridge stores, Harvest Moon gift shop in Victoria Passage and Polka Dot Paradise in High Street, recently closed. Both blamed a dive in takings partly on the upheaval of the Crown Centre work.

Child porn man, 52, is spared prison by judge

A MAN found with more than 24,500 indecent images of children has been spared jail by a judge who said: "Most people will think you should go to prison for a long time".

The images were discovered at David Hornbuckle's home, along with videos and images of extreme pornography and bestiality. The 52-year-old, of Church Hill, Brierley Hill, was told by Judge Michael Challinor that the images were "vile" and featured children who had been "sexually abused in horrific circumstances".

But the judge said his sentencing powers meant Hornbuckle would only serve a short time in jail and would have given him no course of rehabilitation. The judge instead imposed an intensive community order.

David Rees, prosecuting, said police swooped on Hornbuckle's old address Collis Street, Stourbridge, last December.

Hornbuckle admitted five charges of making the images, three counts of making indecent moving images of children, possessing 881 prohibited still images and six moving images of youngsters, and he admitted possession of 264 still images involving sex acts with an animal.

Computer

He also admitted possessing 113 extreme pornographic images and possession of a further three depicting "images portrayed in a realistic way an act that threatened a person's life".

Andrew Jackson, defending, said his client had suffered "devastating consequences", including splitting up with his wife.

Hornbuckle was given a three-year community order with supervision, and must undergo a community sex offender programme.

He was disqualified indefinitely from working with children and must register as a sex offender.

Thousands lose their right to cast a vote

THOUSANDS of people in the Black Country have lost their right to vote.

Councils have spent months chasing more than 142,000 people who failed to respond when they sent out annual forms asking households to identify people of voting age who live there.

Bosses sent out officials to try to track people down but anyone who failed to respond two years in a row was struck off the electoral register. Not being on the register can cause problems with finance and credit.

They won't be able to vote on November 15 for police and crime commissioners.

In Dudley 42,824 properties out of 134,060 failed to reply prompting council chiefs to visit 24,914 homes at least twice. A total of 7,022 still failed to replace and 940 were struck off.

In Wolverhampton 1,251 people were struck off, and in Walsall 796 names were deleted from the register.

In Sandwell 1,916 names were deleted.

Curtain up for pupils' Phantom

Front, Callum Roger as the Phantom and Mollie-Anna Riley as Christine, with back, Paige Butler, Alanis Edwards, Liam Oakley and Jamie Rushin

MORE than 60 young performers at a Gornal school will take to the stage with The Phantom of the Opera.

Pupils at Ellowes Hall Sports College are now putting the finishing touches to the production which will run at the school, in Stickley Lane, from November 12 to 17.

All shows will begin at 7.30pm except for the Saturday matinee at 2pm. The production features around 60 cast members with 40 more working behind the scenes. Tickets available from the school's reception, are £6 except for Friday which is £8.

Music will be performed by the school's orchestra, parents, teachers and students at the Birmingham Conservatoire.

Charity's sessions to find new help

TWO drop-in sessions have been organised this month aimed at finding volunteers for a Midlands charity.

Pocklington Resource Centre, in Stourbridge, wants people to volunteer to help with its home visit service.

The service provides support for people suffering with sight loss.

The service, called the Visually Impaired People project, already has 48 volunteers but needs to find another 25.

The service offers company, and help with reading and correspondence.

Volunteers also accompany people on trips.

The service is now looking for more volunteers to support people in Sedgley, Coseley and Gornal.

Drop-in sessions will be held at the Retreat Cafe at St Francis Church, in Laurel Road, Dudley, on November 12, between 10am and 1pm, and on November 14 at Sedgley Community Centre, in Ladies Walk, between 10.30am and 1.30pm.

Email vivien.smith@pocklington-trust.org.uk or call her on 01384 440333 or 01384 889887 for details.

Foodbank sale helps the needy

CLOTHES, toys and bedding will be among the items available at a charity sale in Halesowen on Saturday.

Volunteers from the Black Country Foodbank are hosting the event which will take place between 2pm and 3.30pm.

It will be at Halesowen United Church, in Hagley Road, near to the bus station. All items will cost 50p or £1.

The foodbank supports vulnerable people and families by distributing emergency food supplies from outlets across the borough.

Volunteer Helen Bryan said: "As it becomes increasingly difficult to make ends meet, more people are turning to us for support.

"We raised over £150 through a similar sale a few months ago."

Visit www.blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk for more details.

Stourbridge Crematorium

Remembrance service

Sunday 2 December 2012, 11am and 3pm

This service is particularly appropriate where the funeral of a relative or friend has taken place at the crematorium, however, everyone is welcome.

Due to high demand, admission is by ticket only.
Tickets are available by calling **01384 813985** or visiting the crematorium on Wednesday 14 November after 10.30am.

At the end of each service staff will be available to show visitors around and answer any questions about the crematorium.

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Historic factory wins a reprieve

A FORMER 18th century glassworks factory in Stourbridge has been given a reprieve from bulldozers following an intervention by councillors.

They say Platts Glassworks in Amblecote has an important place in the town's glassmaking heritage and is historically significant.

An application to knock down the buildings, in Platts Road, had been lodged with Dudley Council by developers.

But councillors agreed demolition plans should be halted for officials to delve deeper into the history of the site.

They agreed to apply an order under the Town and Country Planning Act to withdraw development rights to the builder.

This means the glassworks cannot be redeveloped until a full planning application is received by the council.

Planning committee member Councillor Tim Wright said it was important buildings around the Glass Quarter were preserved.

Applicant James Matthews, of Asset Storage Ltd, will be asked to submit a full planning application for consideration.

New store opened by Kiddicare

BABY specialist Kiddicare has launched a new superstore at Dudley's Merry Hill centre.

The Morrisons-owned chain has opened in the old Best Buy premises, creating 106 jobs.

The superstore occupies nearly 40,000sq ft and stocks more than 2,900 products.

Among the services it offers is a children's soft play area, free customer WiFi, a Starbucks coffee shop and free car seat fitting and pushchair servicing.

Birmingham mother-of-two Hollie Brierly from Birmingham won a Facebook competition to cut the red ribbon on the new store.

Brand director Elaine Weavers-Wright said: "We've designed the store as a social hub for families to meet."

Event to help murder suspect clear name

Grateful – Luke Walker

MURDER suspect Luke Walker, who is at home on bail in the Black Country, will attend an event organised by well-wishers to help fund the fight to clear his name.

A disco, to be held at Baggeridge Country Park, near Sedgley, on November 30, was been intended as a celebration.

It was thought that Luke would have been cleared by a Greek court before then.

But the trial was halted on its first day, two weeks ago, after key prosecution witnesses were not called – so he still has to prove he is not guilty of killing his 20-year-old girlfriend, Chelsea Hyndman, in Crete.

Luke, aged 24, of Brierley Hill, had been on bail on condition he remained on the holiday island pending his trial.

But, after the proceedings were halted, the judge said he would be allowed to return to his home in Gayfield Avenue until the hearing was resumed, which is likely to be in several months' time.

Luke arrived home on October 23, vowing to clear his name. He is accused of beating Chelsea to death more than two years ago.

He says witnesses have come forward to say they saw her fall during a night out, which might have caused the injuries that killed her.

Donations

Luke's father, Patrick Walker, has revealed that the battle to defend him against the charge has already cost £200,000.

Some of the money has been raised through remortgaging the family's home but friends and relatives have also made donations and organised fundraising events to help the family.

The event on November 30 is being organised by workmates of Luke's mother, Lindy, aged 61, a care assistant at Tiled House Lane care home in Pensnett.

Patrick, 55, said his son would attend the event as he was "very grateful" for all the effort that people were making to help.

Family flee as fire sweeps through loft of their home

A FATHER and his three children fled as a blaze ripped through the loft of their house in Quarry Bank.

The fire caused severe damage in the roof space and also led to the evacuation of the house next door.

The fire is thought to have been caused by a fault in wiring to a spotlight on the landing of the semi-detached house in Hordern Crescent, Quarry Bank, last week.

Flames took hold of almost half the loft but firefighters from Brierley Hill managed to stop it spreading.

Householder Kieron Jewess, aged 41, and his children, Ethan, aged two, Mia, eight, and Tyler, 11, were watching television when the burglar alarm went off, caused by the electrical system tripping out.

Mr Jewess, who runs a graphic design business, Flux Creative, from Kinver, said: "I went upstairs and could hear crackling from the loft and saw it was on fire.

"I got the children out to the car and my neighbour, Neil Cadman, who works for British Gas, came and helped me to turn off all the gas and electricity."

Control

Mr Jewess fears the house will need a new roof and is waiting for insurance assessors to estimate the cost of the damage.

Two firefighters wearing breathing apparatus brought the blaze under control in about 30 minutes but colleagues then had to strip out smouldering insulation material.

They evacuated a neighbouring home while they checked that the fire had not spread to their building.

The firefighters spent about two hours at the scene and returned twice more during the night with thermal imaging equipment to make sure it did not flare up again.

Mr Jewess's partner, Shelley Brookes, aged 30, was out when the blaze broke out. But she said: "I dread to think what might have happened if we'd all been asleep."

Washing machine blaze

A WASHING machine caught fire at a house near Stourbridge last week. Fire crews from Kidderminster attended the house, in Willow Close, Hagley. They entered the kitchen, isolated the electrics and extinguished the fire.

Jazz musician's guitars put up for sale

Stourbridge Music Centre owner Peter Cox and his son Matthew with the guitars owned by Dudley jazz musician Jack McKechnie

A COLLECTION of vintage guitars belonging to a well-known Black Country jazz musician has gone on sale.

They were owned by Jack McKechnie, of Dudley, who was a regular TV and radio performer during the 1940s and 1950s.

Mr McKechnie, who died in 2002, also co-owned the Modern Music store, in Castle Hill, for many years with business partner Bob Nash.

Mr McKechnie's family decided to sell the guitars, each worth thousands of pounds, after his wife Pauline died earlier this year. They asked Stourbridge Music Centre, in Lower High Street, where Mr Nash now works a few days a week, to handle the sale.

The collection includes a Gibson L7c dating from 1962, valued at £3,000, and a Gibson L5 Custom Electric Special from 1969, worth £6,000. But the rarest is Mr McKechnie's custom hand-built Grimshaw, worth around £2,500.

It was the second Grimshaw guitar he owned. The first was stolen after a concert at the Queen Mary Ballroom, in Dudley, in the late 1950s.

Guitarist Jack McKechnie, right, with business partner Bob Nash, and the pop group Slade

NEWS in brief

College to boost youngsters' skills

HALESOWEN College has launched a series of expressive arts master classes for pupils from Leasowes High School to extend their skills.

Every Tuesday, the pupils will be able to improve their techniques in graphics, glass painting, drama, 3D art and dance from 3.30pm to 5pm.

A college spokeswoman said: "This is a wonderful opportunity for pupils to learn more about arts subjects. These master classes will boost their confidence and skills."

Pupils on course for road safety

THOUSANDS of primary school children in the region, including Stourbridge, can learn about road safety at a special workshop.

The RoadWise day course is delivered by Safeside's indoor safety centre staff in partnership with Birmingham City Council.

Safeside, run by West Midlands Fire Service, is in Vauxhall Road, Birmingham. Co-ordinator Rob Hattersley said: "Feedback from children and teachers has been great."

Schools can book by calling 0121 380 6429.

Phone lines are cut by raiders

RAIDERS cut telephone lines outside a Halesowen pub as they attempted to burgle the premises leaving neighbouring residents without a service.

They targeted the Foxhunt Inn Harvester, Hagley Road, and attempted to avoid capture by cutting the phone cables.

The raid happened on October 23.

Beauty pageant entries invited

ENTRIES are now open for Miss Midlands GB Beauty Pageant for young women and teens.

Competitors must be aged from 13-18 years for Miss Teen International Great Britain, and must be aged 19-29 for Miss Great Britain International.

Art club's display

HAGLEY Art Club's 23rd annual exhibition will be at the village's community centre from November 16 to 18. The club will open the event at 7pm on November 16.

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NEWS

Poundland in price war as new 99p store opens

POUNDLAND has launched a price war with a rival store – by knocking down the price of of its goods to 95p.

The discount shop, which as its name suggests sells everything at £1, has made the unprecedented move in Dudley after a 99p Store opened nearby.

by Louise Jew

It has placed large signs outside the store with the words "Wow! Everything's 95p".

The move is a step away from the established policy of Poundland, Willenhall which is to consistently price all goods at its stores at £1 to make it easy for shoppers and staff.

The two shops, which sell everything from food and household goods to novelties and gifts, are on opposite sides of Dudley market place.

Shopper Laura Howl, aged 21, of Park Road, Netherton, mother of four-month-old Jack, popped into Poundland to snap up baby food at 95p – and, even at that low price, it was "buy one get one free".

"The price war's great for me because I try to save as much as possible," said Miss Howl.

Fellow Poundland shoppers Geoff and Jill Hickman, of Highland Road, Dudley, had bought a tin of ham for 95p.

Mr Hickman, aged 61, said: "They have decent things in there and it's great that these two stores are so competitive."

At the 99p Store, manager Mohammed Rakeeb said: "Poundland is trying to undercut us but we are still doing well here. We've got quality products at a good price and are particularly proud of our food lines."

Shopper Ian Rollinson, aged 40, of Pleasant View, Lower Gornal, said: "I come to the 99p Store mainly for antiseptic wash. It's good to keep the prices low – but I wouldn't cross the market square to Poundland for 4p off."

No-one was available at Poundland for comment.

European visitors

Front, Germany's Lina Heuer, aged 13, Keno Prezek, aged 10, with High Arcal pupil Joe Fern, aged 12, and his classmates from the host school in Sedgley

GERMAN students have learned about the bostin' Black Country on a trip organised by a Sedgley school.

It is the third year students have travelled from The Academy of English school from Oldenburg near Bremen.

Staff and pupils from The High Arcal School welcomed the party during their two week tour of the region.

They have also visited RAF Cosford, the Black Country Living Museum and had a reception with the Mayor of Wolverhampton during the tour.

The trip culminated with the German children attending school in High Arcal Drive.

Staff on song for final

TWO Severn Trent workers from Kidderminster helped their workplace to victory in the final of TV series The Choir. Until being chosen for the firm's 30-piece group, neither Philippa Brewell, aged 33, an improvement project analyst, nor Jean Harrison, 53, a commercial waste specialist, had ever sang outside of the shower. But in the BBC show's grand finale their team was named the best workplace choir by presenter and choirmaster Gareth Malone.

The Severn Trent team sang a rendition of Feeling Good, made famous by Nina Simone, Muse and Michael Bublé.

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NEWS

Shops are caught selling booze to underage girls

TWO stores in the same street which sold alcohol to an under-age girl, have been allowed to keep their drinks licences – but with conditions.

Priory Road Food and Wine and the Super Stop convenience store in Dudley sold drink to a 16-year-old girl who was making test purchases for the borough's trading standards officers on August 15.

Dudley Council's licensing sub committee heard that, on another occasion, two police community support officers witnessed a disturbance outside Priory Road Food and Wine involving a member of staff with a knife confronting a gang. The committee also heard the staff member who served the under-age girl at the store gave a false name after the incident. Priory Road Food and Wine licence holders Theebalini Raguvannan and her husband Rasathurai said that in five years of running another store, they had never had any issues.

Principal trading standards officer Chris King told the sub committee, in a separate case, that the 16-year-old girl was sold alcohol at the Super Stop store, also in Priory Road, where the licence holder is Tilak Raj. Mr King also said on an earlier occasion an underage test purchase was refused at Super Stop. Both stores now have to ask anyone who appears to be under 25 to prove their age and produce CCTV of sales when requested by officials.

Charity thanks supporters

Twelve months after the British Heart Foundation building fire, assistant manager Peter Stevens in the charity's new store

IT'S one year on since a severe blaze ripped through a charity furniture store in Kidderminster town centre – and battling bosses have thanked customers for their support during the past 12 months as they wait to return to their former premises.

Flames ripped through the British Heart Foundation's furniture and electrical shop in Market Street in a blaze which also gutted neighbouring furniture outlet Levines last October.

The devastating fire severely damaged the building and its stock.

While the charity was able to move into other premises in the town earlier this year – bosses still hope they can return to their original site – if and when it is rebuilt.

Reflecting on the past year, bosses said at one point they feared they would be without a Kidderminster branch.

But they said customers have been a great support and they urged them to keep donating.

Area manager Ron Humphreys admitted trade had been tough since the reopening of the store in Worcester Street in March because of its quieter location. But he also expressed heartfelt thanks to the donors and customers.

Seminars to give tax aid

THE Midlands office of national audit, tax and advisory firm Crowe Clark Whitehill is offering free tax update seminars in Walsall and at Shenstone, near Kidderminster.

They take place on November 16 at Calderfields Golf and Country Club, Walsall, and on November 30, at The Granary Hotel, Shenstone.

Both events start at 9.30am. More details are available by emailing miriam.sherwood@crowecw.co.uk or on 0121 543 1900.

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MEMORY LANE

The imposing facade of the Stafford Street Baptist Church pictured in the 1960s

The Rev Philip Savage says farewell to Theophilus Anderson

The congregation of the baptist church marches from Stafford Street to Green Lane

Baptist church celebrates 40 years on from marching to Green Lane premises

The organ and ornate balcony which were installed at Green Lane Baptist Church in 1972

A CHURCH congregation which moved home to make way for a ring road has celebrated 40 years in their place of worship.

by Deborah Hardiman

Green Lane Baptist Church, Walsall, was formerly known as Stafford Street Baptist Church situated at the junction with Littleton Street West.

In October 1972 the members moved from the 135-year-old town centre chapel to a building a short distance away, between the A34 Green Lane and Burrowes Street.

Baptists first made their mark in Walsall about 180 years ago when according to church historians there at least one pub in every street and education opportunities were poor.

The founders set up Goodall Street Baptist in 1832 near the market hill, but in 1846 the congregation split. A group of 70 held separate meetings in the Guildhall and the Black Boy pub before leasing a piece of land in Stafford Street from Lord Hatherton.

The rebels created the Stafford Street Baptist Church, which opened on January 25, 1847.

Despite ups and downs, it maintained its presence there for more than a century until plans for the town's ring road unfolded.

Special

Unfortunately, Sunday school rooms were just 6ft from the line of the proposed road and the fellowship had to relocate after lengthy negotiations with Walsall Council.

The minister at the time was the Rev Philip Savage.

A special celebration service to mark the ruby milestone was held on October 21 with guests including Mayor of Walsall Councillor Dennis Anson and Mayoress Mrs Kathleen Anson. Others included former members who travelled from Dorset, London and Somerset to attend.

Longest-serving member Nora Pitt, first attended Stafford Street in 1943 during the Second World War. Over the years she served as Brown Owl and Captain of the 6th Walsall Guides.

"The 40 years have flown. Stafford Street is still as clear in my mind as ever," Mrs Pitt, now aged 87, of Essington, said. "All my family was involved in the scouting movement. We also used to do a lot of pantos and my husband Tom made the scenery. We also organised the jumble sales and over the years I have sewn a lot of curtains for the old building and for Green Lane too."

Oldest member Estella Moffatt, aged 92, was among the first wave of Caribbean immigrants who joined in the 1960s, after arriving in Walsall with her nephew Theophilus Anderson, who served as deacon, but returned to Jamaica.

"When I arrived from Jamaica in 1956 Stafford Street was the first church I attended, so I settled here with my husband Ezra, who died in 1984. We didn't actually transfer our membership until the congregation moved to Green Lane.

"I remember there was a choir at Stafford Street and the church was full of people every Sunday. But if you sat in someone's pew, they would ask you to move. I have many memories of trips to all the seaside resorts like Blackpool and Southport. And also the Women's Guild meetings those were fun.

"We don't get as many folks as we used to, but everyone is very nice and I try to get to church every week."

Minister, the Rev Bob Morris has been leader of the 55-strong congregation for four years. He said: "Although the church is celebrating the 40th anniversary of its current building, we recognise the longer heritage of the church as a community of God's people going back into the 19th century."

Members of Green Lane Bapist Church celebrating the anniversary

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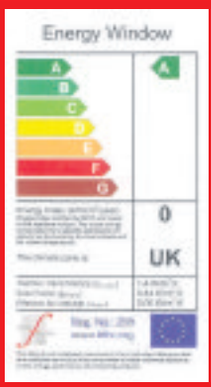

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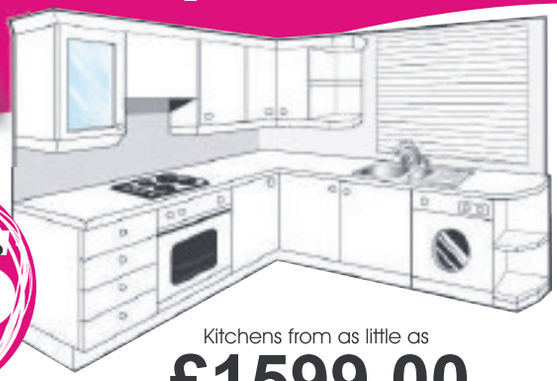

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New life for old cottages

THREE old carpet weavers' cottages should be turned into a community centre and museum, residents say.

Plans are being drawn up to restore the properties in Kidderminster's Horsefair.

Worcestershire Building Preservation Trust will submit a bid for Heritage Lottery funding to get the project off the ground by the end of the year.

Terry Thomas, of Mr Tees Records in Horsefair, said: "The cottages are an important part of Kidderminster's past and it would be great to make them available to the community."

Few workers left as Ibstock Brick winds down operations at factory

A WELL-KNOWN brick company is winding down one of its factories with only a few workers now remaining at the site.

Ibstock Brick announced the closure of its base in Tansey Green Road, Kingswinford, earlier this year. And bosses said operations had been scaled down at the factory with only a small number of staff still there.

They said this was to maintain the security of the site and to dispatch products to customers. But they refused to comment on when the site would be fully closed. The firm announced the factory was to shut in July and said consultation was taking place with the 31 people who worked there.

Bosses said they had continued to work closely with staff over the past few months to help them secure alternative employment.

They said 10 members of staff had been redeployed to other Ibstock factories in the area.

The firm blamed closure of the factory on tough trading conditions leading to a decline in the demand for bricks.

Bosses said the drop in business had been continuing in recent years which had forced a rethink on how the firm operated.

Spokeswoman for the company, Gemma Perks, said: "Following a consultation period, Ibstock Brick has regrettably had to close its Stourbridge factory.

"A small number of staff are continuing to work at the site to dispatch products to customers and maintain security. We have worked closely with employees to help them secure alternative employment and understand the majority of those affected have already secured new roles. A number have been redeployed to other Ibstock factories."

The company was formed in the 1800s. The Kingswinford factory is one of more than 20 bases the firm has in the UK. When closure was announced, bosses said the aim was to maintain "optimum operational efficiency" at the remaining factories.

Taxis in call for a rethink

PRIVATE hire taxi drivers in Dudley are demanding a rethink over the council's policy for only white cars to be used in the borough.

The single white car scheme established in 1996 helps with public saftey.

They claim the popularity of the colour showcased on high performance cars in music videos and as the latest accessory for celebrities has pushed the price of vehicles through the roof.

Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association is asking for the council to consider introducing another colour like silver or grey that would be a lot cheaper.

Store reopens after a major makeover

Inside Diffusion, marketing and creative director Rav Rayet

A FASHION store has been relaunched at Merry Hill Shopping Centre following an extensive refurbishment.

The new-look Diffusion reopened last week following completion of the revamp.

The makeover, which took a fortnight, proved an immediate hit with shopperswith the shop floor expanded.

Specialised jean and footwear departments have also been created and the interior refitted.

Creative director for the store Rav Rayet said: "We relaunched the store and are really pleased with the reaction we have been getting.

"It has been a long time since any real changes were made to the store and we wanted to do something different.

"It has been a major refurbishment and we are delighted with the result."

Suspects may face automatic drug test

ANYONE arrested for a range of crimes in Kidderminster, Stourport and Bewdley will now face an automatic drug test.

Prisoners taken to Kidderminster police station will be forced to have tests for Class A drugs – including heroin, crack and cocaine – if they are suspected of offences such as burglary, theft and fraud.

Other "trigger" offences which automatically lead to testing, cover drug supply or possession. Anyone who refuses to co-operate with a test will be committing a criminal offence and could be jailed for up to three months, as well as facing a fine. The move, which follows similar action in other parts of the West Midlands, is aimed at helping to identify and tackle the kind of offences often committed by people addicted to drugs.

"Drug Testing on Arrest" is part of the Drug Intervention Programme – known as DIP – which will lead to agencies stepping in to offer treatment to those testing positive to wean them off the substances that often cause them to commit crime. The testing will apply to anyone aged over 18 arrested for one of the "trigger" offences at Kidderminster, Redditch and Worcester police stations.

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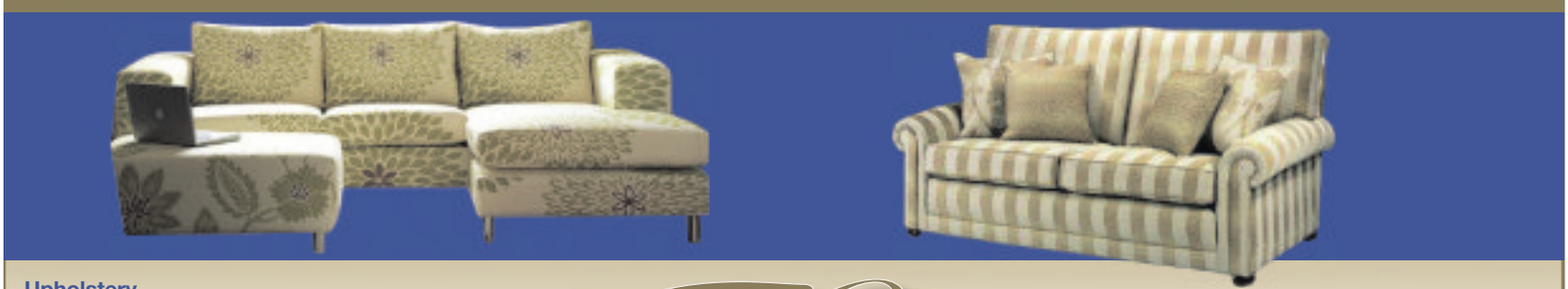

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Centre swimming pool to close for air vent work

THE swimming pool at Dudley Leisure Centre will close for almost two months while work installing new air circulating units is carried out.

The pool will be shut from November 19 until January 7 while the £250,000 project is completed.

The units will replace the dated system which was installed in 1978. Bosses said the rest of the centre, including the gym and dome sports pitch, would remain open to the public while the work on the pool is taking place.

Councillor Tracy Wood said: "I would like to apologise to the centre's users for this extended closure due to the installation. November and December are traditionally the quietest months for the centre which is why we have chosen to carry out this important work now."

In September, the council approved proposals to replace dozens of lockers at Dudley's three main leisure centres at a cost of £114,000.

They are used by swimmers using the pools at the centres in Dudley, Halesowen and Stourbridge.

A report, which went before Dudley Council's cabinet, said they were in need of replacement after five years.

Earlier this year the leisure pool at Stourbridge's Crystal Leisure Centre was closed for five days due to a mechanical fault.

Engineers were able to trace the problem to a filter in a pump unit. A new unit was installed and the pool reopened.

Glass museum is closer

PLANS for a long-awaited glass museum at a historic former factory are moving closer to reality as it emerged a bid for funding will finally be made within days.

The finishing touches are being made to an application for around £2 million from the European Regional Development Fund(ERDF) for the development on the former Stuart Crystal glassworks site in Wordsley.

The museum will house collections from across the region and is expected to attract thousands of visitors.

The bidding process has been delayed in recent months but developers say the application will finally go through by the end of this month.

Site owners Complex Developments revealed they are now planning to carry out building work in stages to ensure there are no further delays.

It is hoped work can begin next spring if the first round of funding is granted.

Inject

Charity the British Glass Foundation will then inject cash from donations raised.

Money will also be sought from the Heritage Lottery Fund, with a bid due to be submitted in February.

Ian Harrabin, director of Complex Developments, said: "The bid for European funding will go towards the main derelict buildings."It is the last chance we will get under the current European programme and the buildings might not even be there if we have to wait for the next round.

"We are looking at moving the project forward in stages – we need to give it a kick start and then expand further in the future."

The project was thrown into doubt last year when arsonists gutted one of the Grade II listed former factories. And vandal attacks since then have forced bosses to step up security by installing fencing.

The application for funding is being drawn up with the help of Dudley Council.

Actress to join Fizzog

A COMEDY actress who became an overnight internet sensation is teaming up with a Black Country theatre group for their pantomime.

Gill Jordan, from Walsall, scored more than a million views on internet video site YouTube with her sketch Doreen's Story.

She has now signed up to star with Fizzog Theatre Company for its latest production. Fizzogs will stage Kippin' Beauty throughout the region in December and January. Shows are on December 7 and 8 at Thorns Community College, Thorns Road, Quarry Bank.

Library celebrates 50th anniversary

Library customer advisor Jenny Davies with Lizzie Ostle, six, Jimmy Ostle, eight, and Edward Taylor, six

GENERATIONS of families were invited to celebrate with a village library near Stourbridge as it marks a milestone anniversary.

Hagley Library has clocked up 50 years since. Staff from the last 50 years are invited to join in the celebrations last week at the library, off Worcester Road.

Events had been planned by staff to mark the occasion- which included magic shows, balloon modelling and face painting. Also parents were able to bring children aged two to four to the Chattertots group to share stories while a local history talk was also planned.

Asda still wants to build a store

ASDA said it was still committed to building a new superstore in Kidderminster as it continued to look for a suitable site.

It has been six months since bosses were forced to rethink their plans for the development in the Churchfields area after opposition was raised.

Oliver Jones for Asda, said the firm still wants to open a new store.

Business event maps out future

NATIONAL business leaders and planners joined forces to map out ways planning can support economic growth at an event in the Black Country.

The Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership welcomed representatives from three government departments and 17 other LEPs.

Presentations at the event included a national planning update.

Photo competition to focus on young talent

A COMPETITION is being run for young photographers in Worcestershire.

Worcestershire Young Photographer of the Year Competition 2013 is hosted by the Beacon Camera Club in Malvern and is open to anyone still in full-time education aged under 19.

Worcestershire County Council's Children's Services is supporting the competition and the closure date for entries is January 31.

Fifty finalist images will be selected for display by projection on to a large screen at an awards night on March 13 and will then be included in a book.

Entries will be judged by a panel of experienced Beacon Camera Club members. Entries can be submitted on the club's web site at www.beaconcameraclub.co.uk

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NEWS

Eyesore block set to get a revamp

AN eyesore block of shops and maisonettes in Kingswinford is to be revamped, following complaints from residents.

Four of the six shops in Beech Road are boarded up, with only a convenience store and takeaway still trading.

The six flats above the shops are occupied but the gardens are overgrown and piles of rubbish have been dumped there.

Dudley Council says the building could be refurbished or converted to create low-cost homes.

Members of Brierley Hill Area Committee have demanded action to tidy up the area and a council report says the site should be assessed for development for affordable social housing.

Police hunt after woman is kicked in street attack

A WOMAN in Dudley was kicked to the ground by attackers who tried to wrestle her handbag from her.

Police have released images of suspects from CCTV in Dudley town centre.

The 56-year-old woman was attacked as she walked along Stone Street. She was kicked to the ground from behind.

A man tried to grab her handbag but the woman fought him off and managed to keep hold of it.

The suspects were later spotted on CCTV in Dudley town centre. One was wearing a black top and silver cross on a chain around his neck. The other had a close cropped haircut and was wearing a dark coloured coat.

The victim suffered a minor injury to her leg in the incident which happened at 2.30pm on October 4. Dc Nick Slym, of Dudley CID, said: "We want to hear from anyone who recognises either of the men in the CCTV images.

"This happened in the afternoon. There would have been people out and about and we would ask any witnesses to contact us."

Anyone with information can call Dudley CID on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

A man police want to talk to

One man wearing a silver chain

Villagers relieved as pub is to reopen

AN historic canalside pub is to reopen almost a year after it closed.

Villagers in Kinver were stunned when The Vine, in Dunsley Road, was shut last December weeks before the busy festive season.

Villagers were increasingly concerned it could remain closed permanently.

But bosses from Enterprise Inns have said a new licensee has been found and that it is expected to open in the next few weeks.

New landlord Ashton Keating has taken over the running of the pub and is preparing to reopen to customers.

But re-decorating work inside the building needs to be finished before it can get back up and running.

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Choir hails heroes

Dudley mayor, Councillor Melvyn Mottram, with choir members Pete Hawthorne, Bill Hart, Mike Green, Dennis Perkins, Jim Grainger, John Baker and John Bowen

A TOP male voice choir were paying their own special tribute to the armed forces with a concert in Dudley tonight (Thursday).

The Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir were performing their Festival of Remembrance at Dudley Town Hall.

It was featuring a short service as well as songs by the Gentlemen Songsters and Maggie O'Hara, and music from Phoenix West Midlands brass band and laughs from Black Country comic Marlene.

The Mayor of Dudley Councillor Melvyn Mottram was attending.

He said: "We always welcome any event like this to honour our armed forces heroes and the Festival of Remembrance is the perfect way to do that."

The choir, which now has more than 70 members, is planning to donate money from the festival to the Royal British Legion.

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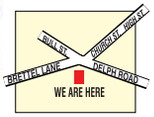

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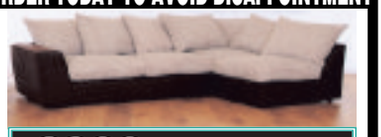
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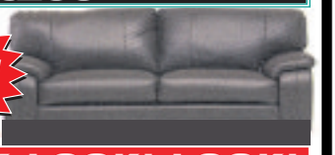

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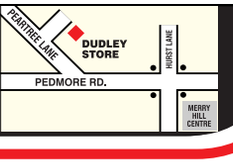

NEWS

Trainee pilot is jailed for drink-drive crash

A TRAINEE pilot, who smashed a hire car into a lamp post while drunk, despite previously being banned from driving, has been jailed for 16 months.

A judge has urged that the Civil Aviation Authority is warned about Manjit Toor after it emerged he was trying to gain a pilot's licence qualification.

Recorder Peter Cooke said the defendant should not be allowed "within a mile" of an aircraft after hearing how Toor was almost three times the drink-drive limit when he crashed in Wolverhampton.

He described 26-year-old Toor as a "menace on public roads".

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that between September 2010 and March this year Toor hired a series of cars and Transit vans from Wolverhampton-based Terminus Contract Hire.

Alcohol

Prosecutor Mrs Sati Ruck explained on each occasion, the defendant had failed to disclose he was disqualified from driving.

The prosecutor said that the fraud offences came to light when Toor smashed a Vauxhall Corsa he had hired into a lamp post in Jeremy Road, Goldthorn Hill, on March 15.

He was found to have 101mcg of alcohol in his breath. The legal limit is 35.

Mrs Ruck said Toor had two previous convictions for driving with excess alcohol and three for driving while disqualified. On each of those occasions, he was banned from driving.

Toor, of Benson Avenue, Blakenhall, admitted seven counts of fraud by false representation, one of driving while disqualified and one of driving with excess alcohol.

Defence barrister Miss Kate Thomas said her client's family had provided the funds for him to go for his pilot's licence.

She added: "He did have the opportunity to go to China in January to get training.

"He bitterly regrets the loss of that opportunity."

£10k contract on offer

Launching The Contract competition is Souled founder Susan Vickers, Radio WCR presenter Sean Wiltshire and Rico Levant, of Trufam entertainment

BUDDING stars have the chance to launch their singing careers with the help of a £10,000 record contract which is up for grabs.

The Wolverhampton-based Souled label is offering up the contract as part of a competition to find new talent.

Susan Vickers, owner of Souled, said: "I deal with lots of artists and lots of people tend to think you have to go to London and people up here in Wolverhampton are missing out."

The competition is being run in conjunction with entertainment company Trufam and Wolverhampton Community Radio.

The closing date for entries will be November 13. Organisers are looking for singers from all genres.

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Whole Small Top Rump Beef	£2.89lb - £6.38 kilo
5lb Diced Shin Beef	£2.58lb - £5.69 kilo
5lb Extra Lean Diced Scotch Beef	£2.99lb - £6.59 kilo
5lb Chuck Steak	£2.78 lb - £6.13 kilo
5lb Mince Beef	£2.20lb - £4.85 kilo
Whole Fresh Pork Loins (rind on/off)	£2.00lb - £4.41 kilo
Fresh Small Boneless Pork Legs	£1.58lb - £3.48 kilo
Whole Bone-in Pork Loin	£1.89lb - £4.17 kilo
Whole Spare Ribs	£1.49lb - £3.28 kilo
Whole Bone-in Shoulders	£1.18lb - £2.60 kilo
5lb Loin Lamp Chops	£2.99lb - £6.59 kilo
5lb Lamb Rump Steaks (minted/plain)	£3.99lb - £8.80 kilo
5lb Diced Lamb	£3.99lb - £8.80 kilo
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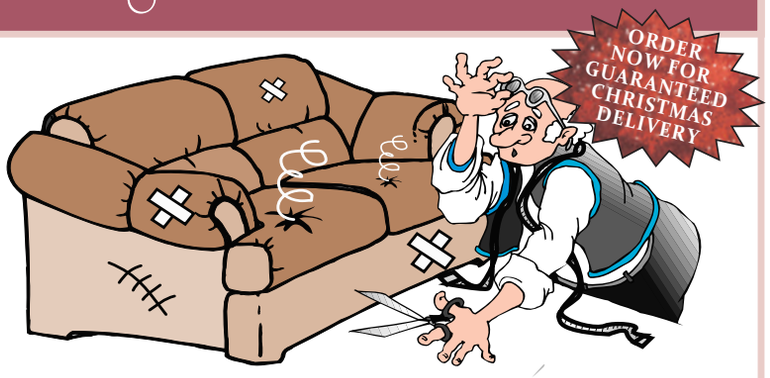

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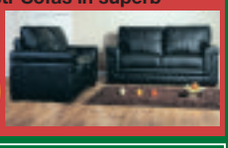

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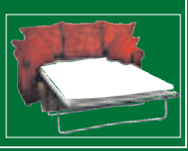

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Dudley Council

Notice of conclusion of Audit and Inspection of Statement of Accounts

Audit Commission Act, 1998 s.14
Accounts and Audit Regulations, 2011, regulation 11

The accounts of Dudley borough for the year ended 31 March 2012 were given a satisfactory audit opinion on 26 September 2012. The auditors have given notice of formal conclusion of the audit.

Copies of the Statement of Accounts are available for inspection by anyone who can vote in local government elections in Dudley borough.

Please visit: **Dudley Council Plus**, Castle Street, Dudley. Open from 8am to 5:30pm weekdays and from 9am to noon on Saturdays

Or to: **The Council House**, Priory Road, Dudley. Open from 9am to 5pm on any working day.

Any Dudley elector may make copies of the statement or any part of it.

Copies of the full Statement of Accounts may be bought for £3 each.

The Statement of Accounts is also available on the council website **www.dudley.gov.uk/statementofaccounts**

Free internet access is available at council libraries within the borough.

Please contact the corporate finance and systems team on **01384 814850**, email **corporate.finance@dudley.gov.uk**, or visit the address below, if you have any queries about this notice.

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CLUB NEWS

Questions are raised over care

MYTIME OVER FIFTIES

THE October meeting began with the speaker introducing an alternative to residential care.

Mrs Sheena Williams explained that being in a care home may exacerbate an elderly person's mental condition. Incidence of depression and feelings of isolation may arise, caused by the loss of independence, their home and sometimes a loved one.

As a result, it may be preferable to maintain an elderly person in their own home. To this end, care can be provided on a live-in basis. If this type of care is chosen, the carer stays with the client seven days a week for up to two weeks at a time, providing companionship and giving continuity of care.

This type of care was unknown to most of the visitors and members so there were many questions for Mrs Williams to answer.

During October MyTime members enjoyed a lunch visit and a concert at Dudley Concert Hall.

MyTime Over Fifties meets on the fourth Wednesday in each month in the Amblecote Room at Stourbridge Town Hall at 2pm.

At the next meeting on November 28, the speaker will be Ms Liz Leck on the History of the Birmingham Hippodrome.

For more information call Audrey 01384 864223 or Graham 01384 393483.

Historian gives talk on long-lost railway

Historian Dr Paul Collins, author of the book The Kinver Light Railway, gave a talk to the Black Country Society

THE BLACK COUNTRY SOCIETY

THE Kingswinford branch met on October 17 in Kingswinford Church Hall.

Chairman Joan White introduced the speaker Dr Paul Collins, author of The Kinver Light Railway.

The railway closed in 1930. It ran from the Fish Inn, Amblecote, through Wollaston and the Bridgnorth Road to the Stewponey and Foley Arms Hotel, Stourton. From there it continued through the Hyde Meadows and Woodlands to Kinver village.

Paul was thanked for his excellent talk, illustrated with superb pictures on slide.

The next meeting will be held in Kingswinford Church Hall on Wednesday November 21 at 7.45pm when the speaker will be David Bills MBE on Kinver Rock Houses.

History of Harvington Hall

BLACKHEATH 'M' TWG

THE October 24 meeting was opened by chairman Doreen Armstrong who welcomed all members present and speaker Pat Green.

Pat gave an interesting talk on Harvington Hall, a moated manor house containing seven priest holes.

She wore a costume of the Elizabethan era and explained all the various parts of her costume from head to toe. She also gave a small history of Elizabeth I who had stayed at Harvington Hall. Members found the whole talk very interesting.

The chairman then welcomed all members to the guild's 14th birthday.

Three ladies had represented the guild at the annual national lunch at the chapter house of Worcester Cathedral, the theme being 'Titanic Remembered'.

At the end of business the members were treated to a small party and given cream cakes and drinks. Three members won prizes in the monthly free raffle.

The next meeting is on November 28at The Moose Hall, Beeches Road. The speaker will be Mr John Smith on 'Radio Memories'.

ADVERTISEMENT

Suction offers another solution

A CUTTING-EDGE development to help resolve the stability problems faced by thousands of denture wearers is now available. Denturist Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) says the invention has the potential to improve the life quality of those experiencing long-term problems with ill-fitting teeth. The Ultra Suction teeth are held in place by tiny valve-operated suction devices built into the dentures.

All on 4 is now here

One of the most advanced restorative options for denture wearers is availalbe in Wolverhampton and Dudley. An implant system called All on 4 offers a permanently retained full arch of teeth in a day.

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Finding a traditional answer

The work of the Denture Clinic has found satisfied customers from as far as Spain, the Isle of Skye, Anglesey and the south coast of England. Its handcrafted dentures, made in laboratories on the premises, are known for their natural look, says clinic principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng). "I remain passionate about resolving problems for denture wearers and for many, quality, traditional dentures can bring about hugely effective results. We always aim to exceed expectations and strive for best clinical outcomes."

Ann's transformation

A WORKING union between two dental professionals is helping to bring about life-changing outcomes. Retired health professional Ann was one of their patients. Read why now she's finding a new harmony in life.

"My teeth look and feel just like my own. I cannot speak highly enough of both clinics which provided excellent treatment for me"

ANN flashes an engaging smile and declares confidently: "I'm looking to join a choir – I love singing."

The retired general nurse, midwife and public health worker from the Midlands, continues: "It's one of the things I want to do again, having been involved in a Finding the Voice course.

"It's such a joyous pastime and what's more, it gives me pleasure while hopefully putting something back into life for others." It is hard to imagine Ann shying away from anything – a consummate, articulate professional, who embraces life and opportunity with an infectious enthusiasm.

But trouble with her teeth began to erode her positive approach and she admits her self-image took a dive. I became too self-conscious of my teeth."

She adds: "Family get-togethers over meals became awkward for me because my teeth were not functional, but it was at my mother's 90th birthday party it really came home to me. 'What's the matter with your teeth?

"She said 'they're all misshapen'. It was true.

"My mother said what no-one else would say. It's true also, teeth can be life-damaging." Ann, who once worked in Australia before meeting her husband and returning to the UK, had suffered periodontal (gum) disease of her top crown.

Denture Clinic

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www.denture-clinic.co.uk

Parkdale Dental Clinic

Some teeth had become loose and twisted while other, more mobile teeth, had to be extracted. Her sister was a patient with Wolverhampton implantologist Jonathon Pugh BDS MSc, principal dentist at *Parkdale Dental Clinic* on Tettenall Road, and she persuaded her to have a consultation with him.

Mr Pugh recalls: "Sadly, by this time, Ann's gum disease was aggressive and far too advanced so we didn't have the option to treat her gum disease. We had to extract all of her upper teeth and then place four implants to support an implant-retained denture."

Ann's case was then referred to Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS (Eng) of the *Denture Clinic*, which is also based at the *Parkdale* practice, and he prescribed and made the prosthetic. Mr Burchell, who also has a clinic in North Street, Dudley, says: "With the implant-retained top denture we could guarantee stabilisation, giving Ann the smile she wanted and excellent functionality too."

Ann, a volunteer support worker at a hospice, adds: "I cannot speak highly enough of both clinics which provided excellent treatment for me.

"My implant-retained dentures have made a great improvement to my appearance and wellbeing.

"My teeth look and feel just like my own. It's been a good investment and offers a long-term solution."

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Winter warmth provides free practical support and advice to keep you and your home warm. Things like help with paying fuel bills, energy efficiency grants, emergency heaters, even support for older people struggling to get out.

If you or anyone you know may be at risk of getting cold this winter, please give us a call.

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Check your Calendar to see the girls reveal their story

THE global phenomenon Calendar Girls returns to Wolverhampton Grand next week after a record-breaking performance at the theatre in October last year.

Based on a true story and the smash hit film, Calendar Girls is quirky, poignant and hilarious show.

Group set to stage hit show

THE Stourbridge Theatre Company is bringing their own version of Calendar Girls to the stage from November 22 to 24.

It will be on at the Town Hall Theatre and the team are the only amateur group in the region, possibly in the country, to pledge to give all profits to Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research,the charity that the original calendar Girls bared all to support.

The performances will be at 7.30 and there will be a matinee at 2.30 on the Saturday.

Tickets are still available by calling 01384 374 354.

It tells the story of a group of women, all members of a Yorkshire WI,who became a world-wide phenomenom when they persuade one another to pose for a charity calendar with a difference.

Birds of a Feather star, Lesley Joseph, plays the role of Miss October alongside a stellar cast that includes Kacey Ainsworth who played Little Mo in EastEnders, and Su Holderness who is best known as Marlene Boyce in the BBC's hugely popular Only Fools and Horses.

Kathryn Rooney returns as Miss September having starred in the West End production, and Hollyoaks star Kevin Sacre plays Lawrence, the photographer, alongside his wife Camilla Dallerup as Miss May.

Directed by Jack Ryder and with set design by Robert Jones, the show ought to be on everyone's calendar when it starts on Monday for one week only.

Evanescence frontwoman Amy Lee struggles with fame

Cool mystery in fast world of rock

IN the fast-moving world of pop, Evanescene are something of an anomaly.

Every time they release an album it's treated as a comeback. That's not because they've split up and reformed, rather because they like to take their time.

Lead singer Amy Lee says: "People these days make records so fast . . . but I guess I really feel like the more important thing is making something really great.

"Our following has always been a little underground and we're not that thing that's on the radio all the time. There is an element of cool mysterious."

The Evanescence juggernaut has been working its way around the globe since 2011, when they released their third album, titled Evanescene, the follow-up to 2006s smash hit The Open Door. "I think that we were really lucky with Fallen and had a much bigger success than we could have planned for," the 30-year-old says.

"It's afforded me having things like a few years between records to make something truly inspired the next time around."

But the fame of the group – formed in 1995 in Little Rock, Arkansas – has hardened Lee.

"Whether it's a relationship or what you're wearing, or how much you weigh and what you said when you didn't mean it like – it's hard to be totally under the microscope," she says. "But I feel better about it now."

The sound of their latest self-titled album is not a huge departure from Fallen, but it was more of a 'group effort', Lee says ."

● Evanescence play Birmingham's NIA on Thursday and tickets are available from the venue.

Ghostly goings on during town tour

THE latest ghost tour of Dudley is on November 28 from 8pm.

The tour starts and finishes in the Station Hotel, at the bottom of Castle Hill, Dudley.

It then takes in sites around the town, including Dudley Castle.

There is a discretionary age limit of 14 and over. Some stories contain very mild sexual content.

Due to the nature of the terrain, it is not recommended for people with walking difficulties, or a heart condition. Tickets are £8. To book call 01384812812.

Glass expert to showcase book

A WRITER, glass expert and broadcaster from Stourbridge will showcase his latest book at an event expected to attract thousands of collectors.

The National Glass Fair will be at the National Motorcycle Museum, Coventry Road, Solihull, between 10.30am and 4pm on November 11.

Graham Fisher will be selling copies of the 2012 Portland Vase Project.

Night of comedy

FIZZOG Theatre will perform an evening of Black Country comedy at Ellowes Hall Sports College, Stickley Lane, Gornal, Dudley on November 27. Tickets from Changing Rooms, 47a, Kent Street, Upper Gornal.

Get in the mood for Miller sound

BIG band fans will be entertained by the classic sounds of the Glenn Miller Orchestra in Dudley.

Band leader Ray McVay will bring the sound of the 1940s to the Black Country on November 17 at 7.30pm.

The show features the harmonies of the Moonlight Serenaders, along with singers Catherine Sykes and Colin Anthony and Ray Wordsworth with The Uptown Hall Gang.

Tickets are £18.50 from the box office on 01384 812812.

Convicts feature in history talk

THE story of eight 19th century Worcestershire women convicts who were shipped to Australia, including one from Belbroughton, near Stourbridge, will be told to local history fans.

Belbroughton History Society hosts the talk, by David Clark, former Mayor of Worcester, on November 21. The event will start at 8pm at Belbroughton Church Hall.

The admission charge for the talk will be £2.50.

Definitely a show

OASIS tribute band called Definitely Might Be will be playing at The River Rooms, in Mill Race Lane, Stourbridge, on Friday from 7.30 to 2am.

Tickets, priced at £8, are available by calling 01384 397177.

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 10.11.12

CHOICE

Russell Watson

The Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance BBC1, 9.15pm

The situation in the Middle East means that the sacrifices made by British soldiers are in many people's minds all year round. But that won't lessen the impact of the Festival of Remembrance. Among those taking part this year will be the Military Wives choir, formed last year by Gareth Malone; you may remember they also appeared at last year's service. This time around, they'll be joined on stage by former X Factor finalist and serving soldier Jonjo Kerr in a rendition of In My Dreams.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.45** Lord Mayor's Show 2012. **12.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Live International Rugby Union. **4.30** Final Score. **5.20** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.40** Pointless Celebrities.

6.30 Strictly Come Dancing. Claudia Winkleman joins Tess Daly to present another ballroom battle as the pro-celebrity couples bid to impress the judges and get their names at the top of the leaderboard. The results are tomorrow at 7.20pm.

8.05 Merlin. Morgana snatches Gwen and locks her in a magical tower, forcing Arthur and his knights to battle all manner of dangers as they set out to rescue the queen.

8.50 The National Lottery Saturday Night Draws. Scott Mills presents a performance by Susan Boyle, and pushes the button to set the balls rolling in the Lotto and Thunderball draws.

9.00 BBC News; Weather.

9.15 The Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance. Annual event paying tribute to the victims of war and conflict, held at the Royal Albert Hall in the presence of the Queen. With Rod Stewart, Russell Watson and Alexandra Burke.

10.50 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of today's Premier League clashes, including Aston Villa v Manchester United at Villa Park and Arsenal v Fulham at the Emirates Stadium; National Lottery Update.

12.10 The Football League Show. **1.25** Weatherview. **1.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **12.00** The Sky at Night. (R) **12.20 Film:** Flying Down to Rio. (1933) **1.45** Live Tennis: ATP World Tour Finals. Sue Barker presents coverage of day six from the O2 in London. **5.00** Live International Rugby Union. Ireland v South Africa (Kick-off 5.30pm).

7.30 Attenborough's Ark: Natural World Special. David Attenborough chooses the 10 endangered animals that he would most like to save from extinction, highlighting the work of biologists helping to keep them alive. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. Corporal Jones misplaces £500 donated by local shopkeepers to provide a new canteen for servicemen, so the platoon tries to help him remember where he put it. (R)

9.00 QI XL. Stephen Fry hosts an extended edition of the quiz, with Julia Zemiro, Sue Perkins, Ross Noble and Alan Davies answering questions on the topic of jeopardy.

9.45 The Making of QI. An insight into the production of the popular comedy quiz show in which host Stephen Fry awards points to contestants who provide interesting answers to his questions. (R)

10.45 Film: Perfect Sense. (2011) Premiere. A chef and a scientist fall in love as an epidemic sweeps the world, robbing people of their ability to smell and taste. Romantic drama, with Ewan McGregor and Eva Green.

12.15 Film: The Night of the Generals. (1967) Second World War mystery, starring Peter O'Toole. **2.30** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mickey Mouse Clubhouse. **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.45** The Hive. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.05** The Avengers. **7.25** Rated A For Awesome. **7.40** Rated A For Awesome. **7.50** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.05** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.20** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.35** Shake It Up. **9.00** My Phone Genie. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20** Dinner Date: Australia. **12.15** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** Countrywise. **12.45** Holiday Home Sweet Home. **1.45** Holiday Home Sweet Home. **2.45 Film:** Star Wars: Episode VI – Return of the Jedi. (1983) **5.20** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.35** ITV News; Weather. **5.50** The Golden Rules of TV.

6.20 New You've Been Framed!

6.50 Take Me Out. A London saxophonist who tours with Olly Murs, an electrician from Pontefract in West Yorkshire, a Surrey beatboxer and a bike engineer from Cornwall take part in the dating show.

8.05 The X Factor. Dermot O'Leary presents the sixth live studio round as the remaining acts battle to win praise from the tough-talking judges and persuade viewers to pick up their phones and vote.

9.50 The Jonathan Ross Show. With Damian Lewis and Psy. Last in the series.

10.50 ITV News; Weather.

11.05 Film: The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift. (2006) Motor-racing adventure, starring Lucas Black.

1.00 The Store. ITV News Headlines. **3.00** Ladette to Lady: Australia. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Channel 4 Presents – Jonnie. (R) **6.20** The Treacle People. (R) **6.30** Beach Volleyball. (R) **7.25** British Rallycross. **7.50** Channel 4 Presents – Nathan. (R) **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** T4: The Crush. **9.25** T4: Made in Chelsea. **10.25** T4: Suburgatory. **10.55** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.55** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** Deal or No Deal. **1.55** Channel 4 Racing. **3.55** Come Dine with Me Down Under. **4.25** Come Dine with Me Down Under. **4.55** Come Dine with Me Down Under. **5.25** Come Dine with Me Down Under. **5.55** Come Dine with Me Down Under.

6.25 Channel 4 News.

6.55 4thought.tv.

7.00 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. A couple who have spent their savings on a prototype modular holiday home. Plus, a beach hut given running water and solar power, and gypsy caravans restored to their former glory. (R)

8.00 Heston's Fantastical Food. Heston Blumenthal super-sizes all manner of foodstuffs, beginning with breakfast, which includes the world's largest boiled egg, epic cereal and metre-long sausages. (R)

9.00 Film: Knight and Day. (2010) Premiere. A woman gets dragged into a rogue secret agent's mission to clear his name after he is framed as a traitor. Comedy adventure, with Tom Cruise.

11.15 Film: There's Something About Mary. (1998) Comedy, starring Cameron Diaz.

1.30 Film: Viva Riva! (2010) **3.05** Hollyoaks. **5.10** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. **10.35** ThunderCats. **11.10** The Removal Men. (R) **12.10** Cowboy Builders. (R) **1.05** Rolf's Animal Clinic. (R) **2.05 Film:** The Accidental Witness. (2006) Thriller, starring Natasha Gregson Wagner and Currie Graham. **3.55 Film:** Wandering Eye. (2011) **5.40 Film:** Hell Boats. (1970)

7.25 5 News Weekend.

7.30 Film: The Bridge at Remagen. (1969) American soldiers are sent to capture a strategically vital bridge over the Rhine before German soldiers destroy it. Second World War adventure, with George Segal and Robert Vaughn.

9.45 CSI: Miami. Horatio and the team investigate the death of a janitor at a tennis academy and uncover evidence that someone at the establishment is a child molester.

10.45 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. Part one of two. A man accused of murdering his wife and colleagues takes a woman hostage in a casino hotel room, forcing Brass to negotiate. Starring Paul Guilfoyle. (R)

11.40 Forensic Files. How forensic techniques help solve puzzling crimes. Detectives investigate whether a businessman has been killed deliberately during a robbery. (R)

12.10 SuperCasino. **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Divine Designs. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.15** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.40** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 International Rugby Union **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Live at the Apollo **10.00** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **10.45** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad!

BBC Four

7.00 Pavlopetri – The City Beneath the Waves **8.00** Shock and Awe: The Story of Electricity **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.40** Nigel Slater: Life Is Sweets **11.40** Do We Really Need the Moon?

ITV2

3.00 The X Factor USA **5.55 Film:** The Polar Express (2004) **7.50 Film:** Land of the Lost (2009) **9.50** The Xtra Factor **10.50** Take Me Out – The Gossip **11.35** Celebrity Juice

ITV3

3.55 Goodnight Mister Tom **6.00** Murder, She Wrote **6.55** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Bomb Girls **11.05 Film:** Elizabeth: The Golden Age (2007)

ITV4

3.10 Film: All Quiet on the Western Front (1930) **5.55** The Sweeney **7.00** England's Greatest Goals **8.00** River Monsters **9.00 Film:** Sudden Death (1995) **11.15** Hamish & Andy's Euro Gap Year

E4

3.30 Made in Chelsea **4.35** Baggage **5.35** How I Met Your Mother **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Rules of Engagement **9.00** Rude Tube **10.00 Film:** Under Siege 2: Dark Territory (1995)

Film4

3.15 Carry On Sergeant (1958) **4.55** The Wedding Planner (2001) **6.55** Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (2009) Fantasy comedy sequel, starring Ben Stiller, Amy Adams and Steve Coogan. **9.00** Shallow Grave (1994) Thriller, with Ewan McGregor and Kerry Fox. **10.50** Kill List (2011)

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SUNDAY'S TV 11.11.12

CHOICE

Tamsin Greig

Friday Night Dinner Channel 4, 10pm
Friday Night Dinner (season one) marked Channel 4's biggest comedy launch in the last seven years, and helped boost the already impressive careers of The Inbetweeners' Simon Bird, and ever-sublime Episodes star Tamsin Greig. This second run has been just as much fun, and in the final offering the lads return home to find the builders have been in and the house is in a complete mess. To make matters worse, there's a mouse loose, Mum has taken up refuge in the shed, and Dad is in charge of making dinner. Twitchy Jim nips round to see if he can help.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.25** Remembrance Sunday: The Cenotaph; Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.15** Sunday Politics. **1.30** Points of View. **1.45** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.10** Live International Rugby Union. **4.30** Remembrance Week. (R) **5.25** Songs of Praise.
6.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
6.20 Countryfile. A Remembrance Sunday special from the Forest of Dean.
7.20 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Another couple leave, and violinist Andre Rieu performs.
8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents a Remembrance Day edition from Farnborough. Items include early designs for a flying machine and a letter written in the First World War trenches. Red button viewers can play along by guessing the valuations.
9.00 Andrew Marr's History of the World. The modern age – from the world wars to now and beyond. Last in the series.
10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
10.25 Match of the Day 2. Including highlights of Manchester City v Tottenham Hotspur.
11.35 The Graham Norton Show. With Cameron Diaz, Sarah Millican, Bradley Wiggins and Rod Stewart. (R)
12.20 Film: Masquerade. (1988) **1.50** Weatherview. **1.55** Sign Zone: The Choir: Sing While You Work. (R) **2.55** Holby City. (R) **3.55** The Paradise. (R) **4.55** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Two Minute Silence. **11.05** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **12.05** Flog It! (R) **12.30** Live MotoGP. **2.00** Live Tennis: ATP World Tour Finals. **4.50** Live International Rugby League.
7.00 Remembrance Sunday: The Cenotaph Highlights. David Dimbleby and Sophie Raworth present highlights of this morning's ceremony at the Cenotaph in London, where thousands of veterans took part in the traditional march past.
8.00 Operation Iceberg. First of two programmes in which a team of adventurers and scientists, including naturalist Chris Packham and diver Andy Torbet, visit the Arctic to explore the world of icebergs. (R)
9.00 Dragons' Den. Ideas and products being pitched to the panel include a tablet computer, caravan covers, an oven-cleaning gadget and a backpack that can be used to tow children on ski slopes.
10.00 Harry & Paul. The Surgeons return to their youth as members of the Cambridge Footlights and the American Cops get arrested.
10.30 Hebburn. Sarah attempts to give Jack advice on his interview technique. (R)
11.00 Film: Soul Men. (2008) Premiere. A soul singing duo who have not spoken since falling out years ago travel across America to perform at a tribute concert. Comedy, starring Samuel L Jackson and Bernie Mac.
12.35 Film: Wonderful Town. (2007) Drama, starring Anchalee Saisoontorn. **2.05** BBC News.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Engie Benjy. **6.10** Special Agent Oso. **6.20** Special Agent Oso. **6.35** Signed Stories. (R) **6.45** Monk. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **6.55** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **7.25** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.35** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.50** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **8.00** Phineas and Ferb. **8.15** Phineas and Ferb. **8.30** Big Time Rush. **9.00** Good Luck Charlie. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** House Gift. (R) **10.30** The Unforgettable Sid James. (R) **11.00** ITV News; Weather. **11.10** Countrywise. **11.25** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **12.25 Film:** Carry On Follow That Camel. (1967) **2.15** The X Factor. (R) **4.00** The Home of Fabulous Cakes. **5.00** Downton Abbey. (R)
6.25 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.40 ITV News; Weather.
7.00 Surprise Surprise. With Katherine Jenkins and Bradley Walsh.
8.00 The X Factor Results. Another elimination and more performances by chart-topping stars.
9.00 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! New series. Ant and Dec present as a fresh batch of famous faces wave goodbye to their lives of luxury and set up home among the creepy-crawlies of the Australian jungle.
10.35 ITV News; Weather.
10.50 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Geri Halliwell. The former Spice Girl is interviewed. (R)
11.45 Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union. Highlights of the opening pool matches.
12.40 The Store. ITV News Headlines. **2.45** Motorsport UK. **3.35** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Channel 4 Presents – Nathan. (R) **6.10** The Treacle People. (R) **6.20** The Hoobs. (R) **6.45** The Hoobs. (R) **7.10** Extreme Sailing Series. **7.40** Cardiff Half Marathon. **8.05** Channel 4 Presents – Oscar. (R) **8.10** Will & Grace. (R) **8.35** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.05** The Simpsons. (R) **1.35** The Simpsons. (R) **2.05** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **2.35** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **3.10** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **3.40** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **4.10** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **4.40** The Forgotten Gunners of WW1: A Time Team Special. **5.45 Film:** Furry Vengeance. (2010)
7.25 Channel 4 News.
7.55 4thought.tv.
8.00 How Britain Worked. Guy Martin and a team from the Black Country Living Museum restore a Newcomen engine, an 18th-century steam-powered device used principally to pump water out of mines.
9.00 Homeland. Brody agrees to work with Carrie and Quinn to stop an attack on America.
10.00 Friday Night Dinner. Mum takes refuge in the shed because there is a mouse in the house. Last in the series.
10.30 Derren Brown: Fear and Faith. Part one of two. The showman removes people's feelings of fear. (R)
11.35 Secret State. Political drama, starring Gabriel Byrne. (R)
12.35 C4 Comedy Presents: Them from That Thing. (R) **1.05** American Football Live. **4.45** Grudge Match. (R) **4.55** Countdown. (R) **5.40** Make Do & Mend. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **6.30** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.45** Olive the Ostrich. **6.50** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Play! (R) **7.30** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.30** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.45** Jelly Jamm. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. **10.35** ThunderCats. **11.00** 5 News: Remembrance Sunday. **11.05** The Gadget Show. (R) **12.05** Wild Things with Dominic Monaghan. (R) **1.05 Film:** Stuart Little 3: Call of the Wild. (2005) **2.30 Film:** Cats & Dogs. (2001) **4.10 Film:** You've Got Mail. (1998)
6.25 5 News Weekend.
6.30 Film: Lost in Space. (1998) Sci-fi, starring William Hurt and Gary Oldman.
9.00 Film: Valkyrie. (2008) Premiere. Fact-based thriller, re-creating the 1944 plot by rebel German officers to assassinate Hitler using a briefcase bomb. Starring Tom Cruise, Kenneth Branagh and Bill Nighy.
11.25 Hatfields & McCoys. Three bounty hunters go after Anse and his sons. (R)
12.30 How Do They Do It? (R) **1.00** SuperCasino. **4.00** The FBI Files. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.15** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.40** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Junior Doctors: Your Life in Their Hands **7.55** Great Movie Mistakes **8.00** Gavin & Stacey **9.00** Sun, Sex and Suspicious Parents **10.00** American Dad! **10.45** Family Guy **11.30** Some Girls
BBC Four
7.00 Apples: British to the Core **8.00** Michael Wood: The Story of India **9.00** Legends: Roy Orbison – The "Big O" in Britain **10.00 Film:** The Bird with the Crystal Plumage (1970) **11.35** Michael Wood: The Story of India
ITV2
3.20 Film: The Flintstones (1994) **5.00** Take Me Out **6.10** Take Me Out – The Gossip **7.00 Film:** Dragonheart (1996) **9.00** The Xtra Factor Results **10.00** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **10.35** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! **11.35** Girlfri3nds
ITV3
2.55 Albert's Memorial **4.25** David Jason **5.25** David Jason's Greatest Escapes **7.00** Housewife, 49 **9.00** Joe Maddison's War **10.50** A Touch of Frost
ITV4
3.45 Film: Lonely Are the Brave (1962) **6.00** British Touring Car Championship Review 2012 **8.00** Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union **9.00 Film:** Mercury Rising (1998) **11.15 Film:** The Kingdom (2007)
E4
3.10 Charlie's Angels **4.05** Made in Chelsea **5.10** New Girl **5.40** Suburgatory **6.10** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** My Super Ex-Girlfriend (2006) **10.00** Misfits **11.00** The Work Experience
Film4
2.55 Tora! Tora! Tora! (1970) **5.45** The Rochdale Pioneers (2012) **7.10** The Spy Next Door (2010) **9.00** The Bank Job (2008) **11.10** Walter (1982)

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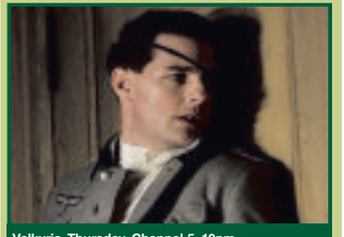
What's On!

Film Choices

Monday
Training Day, ITV1, 11.05pm
A cop embarks on his first day in narcotics, partnering a seasoned officer whose willingness to flout the rules forces him to question everything he has learnt. As they resort to extreme measures to crack a case, the rookie is left battling his conscience in a dangerous situation. Thriller, starring Denzel Washington, Ethan Hawke, Scott Glenn and Tom Berenger. (2001)

Tuesday
Veronica Guerin, BBC1, 11.35pm
Fact-based drama about crime reporter Veronica Guerin, who set out to expose Ireland's crime lords but ended up paying the ultimate price. The film opens with the journalist's assassination, then looks back to trace her attempts to establish a link between Dublin's drug trade and infamous gangster Martin Cahill in the mid-1990s. Starring Cate Blanchett, Gerard McSorley, Ciaran Hinds and Brenda Fricker. (2003)

Wednesday
Erin Brockovich, Channel 5, 9pm
A single mother desperate for work pleads her way into a routine administrative job at a law firm. It is not long before she stumbles across mislaid documents about a case brought against a corporation for poisoning the residents of a small town by contaminating their water supply. Realising something is amiss, she begins her own investigation. Fact-based drama, with Julia Roberts in an Oscar-winning role, alongside Albert Finney and Aaron Eckhart. (2000)


Valkyrie, Thursday, Channel 5, 10pm

Thursday
Valkyrie, Channel 5, 10pm
Fact-based thriller, re-creating the 1944 plot to assassinate Hitler using a briefcase bomb. As the tide of the Second World War turns in favour of the Allies, a group of senior German officers recruits war hero Colonel Claus von Stauffenberg to spearhead an attempt on the Fuehrer's life. Starring Tom Cruise, Kenneth Branagh, Bill Nighy, Tom Wilkinson, Carice van Houten, Thomas Kretschmann, Terence Stamp and Eddie Izzard. (2008)

Friday
Wanted, ITV1, 10.35pm
A frustrated everyman learns his father was a member of a secret society of superpowered assassins dedicated to eliminating people who are destined to commit acts of evil in the future. Having inherited his father's special abilities, he is recruited into the organisation and must take on a former member who has betrayed it. Action adventure, starring James McAvoy, Angelina Jolie and Morgan Freeman. (2008)

Pick of the Week

Celebrities launch into a new jungle challenge

Ant and Dec return for a new run of the series that dozens of critics love to ridicule, but millions of us can't get enough of.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the show which successfully mashed up Celebrity Big Brother with Survivor and became one of the most talked about shows on TV.

In 2002, the powers that be at ITV first discussed the seemingly absurd idea of taking a handful of headline-grabbing celebrities, cutting off their home comforts and throwing them in to the middle of a beastie-inhabited Australian jungle.

"It'll never work" cried a groaning public. How wrong we seemingly were.

Admittedly there are plenty of celebrities we'd love to throw in the jungle never to see a trace of again.

But we'll happily settle for the next best thing – sending them into the claustrophobic rat-ridden pits, swimming through snake-infested swamps or having them served up a three-course meal of the jungle menu's finest delicacies.

As usual, ITV is keeping it under wraps exactly who will be putting themselves at the mercy of the jungle, but so far those rumoured to be in the running include former Corrie girl Helen Flanagan, Olympic swimmer Rebecca Adlington, darts ace Eric Bristow, former Pussycat Doll Ashley Roberts, actress Linda Robson (Birds of a Feather), and, stretching the Celebrity tag to breaking point, Kate Middleton's burlesque stripper cousin Katrina Darling. (No, we haven't got a clue either).

While some celebs may have come across as big girl's blouses during the trials, former contestant Jennie Bond proved she was made of tougher stuff.

"I'm A Celebrity… was the most life changing part of my career," recalls the ex-BBC Royal Correspondent. "Being buried in a coffin and covered in rats for the show was enough to give many folks nightmares, but Jennie took it all in her stride.

"They said: 'Creatures would come in…' and I thought: 'Okay, that's rats. I can handle that.' I was thinking about snakes and how I was going to tackle the snakes coming in, and they never did. So it was mind over matter really."

Christopher Biggins also has 'fond' memories of his time in the jungle. "I loved every minute of it, I wouldn't have missed it for the world – and I'd never do it again." he laughs with that trademark cackle.

"It was very, very tough. The boredom is the biggest thing. There's nothing to do, nothing to read, nothing to write with, nothing to watch, all you have is your fellow contestants, and you long to go out and be covered in rats or something because it relieves the boredom."

Ah yes, the boredom. Something Dom Joly also had a problem with. "It seems to go on forever," he remarks.

"You get up so early and the only sort of saving grace is you go to bed as early as possible to try and get it to finish."

Messrs McPartlin and Donnelly will also be opting for an early night as they have to be up at the crack of dawn to present our evening launch show, before possibly retiring to the hotel pool, or more likely a couple of hours on the golf course.

A hard life isn't it lads?

Ant and Dec host I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!, Sunday, ITV1, 9pm

Best of the Rest

Monday
The All New Gadget Show
Channel 5, 8pm
Jason Bradbury and Pollyanna Woodward continue their tech-led trek across the globe, making a stop in the spectacular surroundings of Iceland. During a whale-watching trip, they test out the latest binoculars and back on dry land, turn their attention to geothermal technology. After their sojourn in the wilderness, it's time to sample the country's urban landscape. In Reykjavik, they ditch the expensive gadgets to concentrate on budget alternatives – laptops are put through their paces before sampling cloud storage solutions. Part-travelogue, part-consumer show, this series continues to go from strength to strength and is a must for those trying desperately to keep up with the latest technological developments.

Full English
Channel 4, 10.50pm
When it comes to sitcoms, the Brits can generally hold their own against the US, except in one area – animation. However, Full English is here to restore some of our natural pride and show we can take on the likes of Family Guy and The Simpsons. The IT Crowd's Richard Ayoade provides the voice of Edgar Johnson, who shares his home with wife Wendy (Rosie Cavaliero), moody teenage daughter Eve (Daisy Haggard), and sons Dusty and Jason (both voiced by Facejacker's Kayvan Novak). In the first episode, Eve enters her band, Bloodmonkey, into Britain's Got Talent and does unexpectedly well – not because she's any good, but because Simon Cowell mistakenly thinks she's an orphan.

Tuesday
The Paradise
BBC1, 9pm
This latest offering from the Beeb seems to have worked wonders for rising starlet Joanna Vanderham – so now that we've reached the last episode of the series, here's hoping the offers come rolling in for her. The wedding is fast approaching but will there be a happy ending for anyone? It looks doubtful, as a shocking discovery in the dead of night sends shockwaves through the Paradise. Moray puts together a party for the staff to celebrate his marriage, but instead he realises where his heart lies. So he has a decision to make.

Wednesday
The Hour
BBC2, 9pm
Following a barnstorming debut series last year, we're thrilled to see this newsroom drama back – it's intelligent, informative and features some fantastic acting from a talented ensemble cast – basically all the things you want from a good programme. It's now November 1957, and Freddie has gone travelling, leaving Hector and Bel to keep The Hour going. But new boss Randall Brown has a trick up his sleeve that will shake them both up. However, Hector seems more interested in using his newfound celebrity status to rub shoulders with Soho's glitterati, in particular a beautiful showgirl called Kiki. Dominic West stars.

Children in Need 2012, Friday, BBC1, 7.30pm

Thursday
Young Apprentice
BBC1, 8pm
Although the main series of The Apprentice steals the limelight, this version, comprising of younger hopefuls, never fails to make for compelling viewing. There's something incredibly satisfying about seeing the next crop of talented business brains getting a platform on which to prove their talents – and also, let's be honest, to see precocious, over-confident youngsters put in their place. There's plenty of drama in this week's challenge as Alan Sugar calls the two teams to the home of the English National Opera, the London Coliseum, where he sets them a daunting task. They are sent into London with a list of 10 theatrical props that they must find.

Hebburn
BBC2, 10pm
Once we'd got over the initial confusion of Jim Moir and Vic Reeves being one and the same person, this sitcom has proved to be a real winner. This week, Jack, who thought he'd escaped journalism when it looked like his book about Gazza was going to be a bestseller, starts his new job as the editor of the Hebburn Advertiser.

Friday
Children in Need 2012
BBC1, 7.30pm
Arguably the biggest and most difficult live TV event of the year is this charity telethon. However, one man who seems to thrive on such occasions is veteran presenter Terry Wogan, who this time around will be joined by co-hosts Tess Daly and Fearne Cotton. They'll be introducing performances from the likes of One Direction, Susan Boyle and Girls Aloud, while Britain's Got Talent winner Pudsey the dog joins Pudsey Bear for an unforgettable moment. Appearing in a Strictly Come Dancing special are Ann Widdecombe and Russell Grant, and there's a chance to see a prequel to the Doctor Who Christmas special, starring Matt Smith.

Attenborough: 60 Years in the Wild
BBC2, 9pm
It's amazing to think that all David Attenborough's accomplishments have been achieved by just once person. His career spans a lifetime, which is a notion that's made all the more surprising when you look at many of today's flash-in-the-pan celebs. There's no doubt that he's one of the greatest broadcasters of all time, and even today at the age of 86 he's still making must-see programmes. In this new three-parter, Attenborough reflects upon his celebrated TV career, charting the changes in the natural world and in peoples' understanding of the planet, as well as focusing on the developments in wildlife film-making. In the first episode, he looks back on some of the incredible animal encounters which have punctuated his career.

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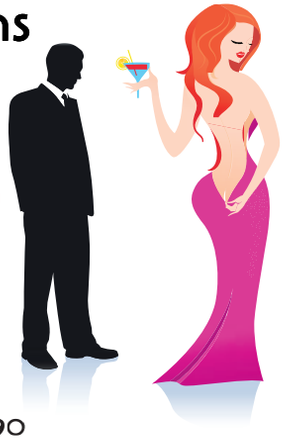
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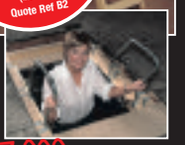
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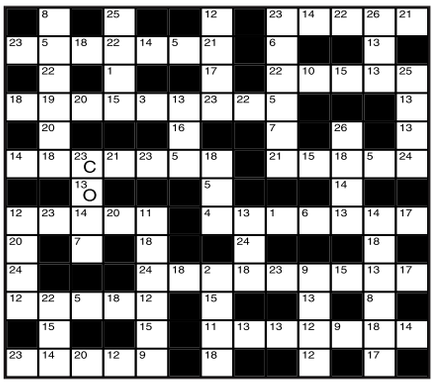
No.194

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23 C
11	24
12	25
13 O	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
E	Z	U	R	M	F	K	C	B	A	H	W	L
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
X	I	S	J	D	Y	N	Q	G	P	V	T	O

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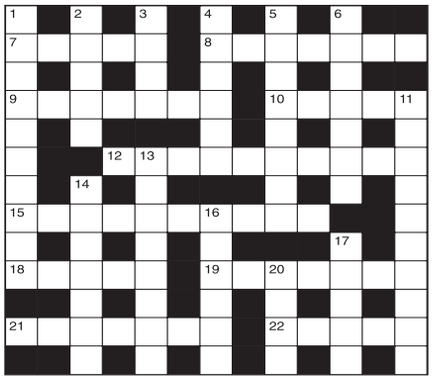
Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. Book a strong man (5)
8. One way to succeed (7)
9. A way of putting things, just in case (7)
10. Quarrelsome oarsman? (5)
12. Such a fight will be close (4-2-4)
15. Having the support of the board though too old to work (2,3,5)
18. A temple ornament? (5)
19. One who's made a pretence a reality, apparently! (7)
21. She has to call back - at the paint shop presumably (7)
22. Material found in many London shops (5)

Down

1. Openly enjoying a stay in the country? (7,3)
2. Not busy with coal (5)
3. Wine that sparkles as it rises (4)
4. Given hot tips at the barber's? (6)
5. Partly burn a fuel that draws well (8)
6. It gives lift for a flier over an obstacle (4-3)
11. A fishy diversion (3,7)
13. Agreeable variety of bean meal (8)
14. Cooked me instead! (7)
16. Hunch about a piece of venison (6)
17. It helps to provide a cheap pleasant snack (5)
20. Vessels of the Royal Navy in America (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

7. Regional (5)
8. Junior (7)
9. Wealthy (7)
10. Entrances (5)
12. Gambler (10)
15. Inverted (6-4)
18. Attire (5)
19. Portion (7)
21. Secret (7)
22. Angry (5)

Down

1. Tracking dog (10)
2. Happen (5)
3. Otherwise (4)
4. Occult (6)
5. One-storey house (8)
6. Stir (7)
11. Make firmer (10)
13. Statue base (8)
14. Austere (7)
16. Disperse (6)
17. Lawful (5)
20. Stern (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Assignees; 8 Use; 9 Fingerprint; 11 Organic; 12 Exact; 13 Estate; 15 Editor; 17 Spurn; 18 Insipid; 20 Sounding out; 22 Hoe; 23 Endowment. Down: 2 Ski; 3 Green; 4 Expect; 5 Stipend; 6 Puts a stop to; 7 Dead tired; 10 Night nurses; 11 Oversight; 14 Tonsure; 16 Minded; 19 Sinew; 21 Urn. QUICK - Across: 1 Unscathed; 8 Eye; 9 Encouraging; 11 Collect; 12 Drain; 13 Equity; 15 Regale; 17 Grasp; 18 Egotist; 20 Inconstancy; 22 Ado; 23 Lingering. Down: 2 Nun; 3 Acute; 4 Hearty; 5 Dwindle; 6 Degradation; 7 Dependent; 10 Calculation; 11 Clergyman; 14 Typical; 16 Pennon; 19 Outre; 21 Can.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

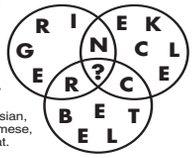
		4		3				8
2	6			7		9		
					5		2	
		6	7	8			5	
8		7				4		1
	4				9	7		
	1		3		7			9
		9		2			3	4
6				9		8		

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

6	5	4	1	9	2	3	7	8
2	7	1	5	3	8	9	4	6
3	8	9	6	4	7	5	2	1
4	6	3	9	1	5	2	8	7
9	1	7	2	8	4	6	5	3
8	2	5	7	6	3	1	9	4
1	9	8	4	2	6	7	3	5
7	4	2	3	5	1	8	6	9
5	3	6	8	7	9	4	1	2

Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
The letter represented by the question mark is S. Persian, snowshoe, siamese, all breeds of cat.

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£550PCM

HIGH STREET HARBOURNE

A Spacious two bedroom first floor flat situated in a busy High Street location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen area, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, decked rear terrace and rear access with staircase to first floor. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£495PCM

HIGH STREET QUARRY BANK

A spacious one bedroom first floor apartment situated close to all amenities with accommodation to comprise of: Lounge, fitted kitchen, double bedroom with shower cubicle and separate WC. The property further boasts electric storage heating, decked terrace affording lovely views and off road parking. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£350PCM

VERITY WALK WORDSLEY

An extremely well presented and spacious four bedroom detached property occupying a corner plot in a quiet cul-de-sac location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility room, four bedrooms, master with en-suite and family bathroom. The property further boasts front and rear gardens, detached garage and large driveway affording off road parking. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£795PCM

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OLD MILL FARM BARN CLENT

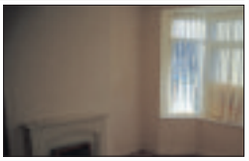
A well presented two bedroom barn conversion in a popular semi rural location, Accommodation comprises of entrance, lounge, fitted kitchen two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating and allocated parking space. UNFURNISHED DSS: No Children: Yes Pets: No Smokers: No

£695PCM

JEWS LANE DUDLEY

A well presented two bedroom Mid Terrace Starter Home situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, cloakroom, lounge, kitchn/diner, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, enclosed rear garden and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£575PCM



ALBERT STREET LYE

A well presented and totally refurbished three bedroom mid terrace property in popular residential location, to comprise: Lounge, breakfast kitchen, rear lobby and bathroom, two bedrooms on first floor and third bedroom in attic.. The property also benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and rear yard. UNFURNISHED DSS: MAY CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO. SMOKERS: NO 12 MONTH TENANCY

£425PCM

THE QUARTER CLARENCE STREET LOWER GORNAL

An extremely well presented two bedroom terrace property situated in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED DSS:May Consider CHILDREN:YES PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO

£495PCM

TIMES SQUARE MERRY HILL

A very well presented one bedroom apartment situated in the heart of the Merry Hill centre, close to all amenities. The accommodation comprises of secure entrance, private entrance hallway, open plan kitchen with integral appliances/lounge. Double bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from double glazing, electric heating and secure underground parking. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO CHILDREN:NO

£495PCM

DADFORD VIEW BRIERLEY HILL

A well presented two bedroom town house with accommodation to comprise of : Entrance hall, lounge with gas fire, kitchen with gas cooker, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from double glazing and allocated parking space. UNFURNISHED
DSS: NO CHILDREN:YES PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO

£475.00 PCM

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A well presented One Bedroom first floor apartment. Located within three quarters of a mile of Oldbury town centre. The property benefits from a security intercom system to the ground floor entrance with a staircase leading to the first floor. The property comprises of: Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bedroom and Bathroom. The property also benefits from night storage and convector heating as well as Double Glazing and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

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SANDFIELD ROAD

£550 pcm

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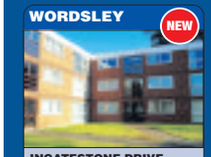
WORDSLEY NEW



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WORDSLEY NEW

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HIGH STREET

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KINGSWINFORD

KINGSLEY ROAD

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Staffordshire County Council

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (AS AMENDED)
ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

IVERLEY LANE, IVERLEY
DIVERSION OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

NOTICE is hereby given that the Staffordshire County Council, on 08 November 2012, made an Order the effect of which is to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in that length of Iverley Lane, Iverley from its junction with A451 Norton Road to the County Boundary unless the vehicle is being used in connection with the works; or is being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes. Vehicular access to frontages will be available from either end dependant on the closure. Pedestrian access will be maintained.

The preferred alternative route for traffic will be available via A451 Norton Road and Fiveways to Churchhill.

THE ORDER WILL COME INTO OPERATION ON 12 NOVEMBER 2012, AND THE SAID WORKS WILL COMMENCE ON OR AS NEAR AS PRACTICABLE TO THAT DATE. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE WORKS WILL BE COMPLETED BY 23 NOVEMBER 2012.

The Order will remain in force for a period of 18 months or until the water main works, which it is proposed to carry out on or near the road, have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

John Tradewell, Director of Law and Democracy
No. 1 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2LP

Ref: S19115; Enquiries: Mrs Simmonds; Tel: 0300 111 8000
www.staffordshire.gov.uk/transport/staffshighways/trafficregulationorders.aspx

Date: 09 November 2012

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property

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NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

BRIERLY HILL 1 bed, furnished, ground floor flat, with garden, CH, DG, off road parking, £380pcm. 07877 673330

CHAPEL ASH, modern studios, by town centre, no upfront deposits, DSS 35+ welcome, 07773 256542

DARLASTON 3 Bed house, fully modernised, DG, CH. Deposit. DSS ok £140pw 07971 120296

DSSMOVE.CO.UK the online property portal where every property says yes to DSS tenants.

DUDLEY. Furnished bed sitting room, own separate kitchen/bath, £65-£92pw. 07550 002549.

FLAT TO RENT, CH, DG, DHSS / working, good, clean condition. 01902 753217. 07552 831885.

MERRIDALE, modern bedsits & flats, near town centre, DSS 35+ welcome, 01902 773944

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ONE BED FLAT, Stockton Court, Coseley . Good condition. £80 per week. DSS Considered. No pets. Tel 07983 965589

PARKFIELDS Whampton, self contained studio apartment, £100 pw inc utilities, no DSS, no smokers, no pets. 07877 673330

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SEDGLEY, JOHNSTONE ST. Two bed cottage £450pcm. Please call 01584 856799

THREE BED house, Whitmore Reans, close to amenities £105pw, DSS ok. 01902 563807.

THREE BEDROOM HOUSE, working couple, £450 pcm. 07760 217512. 01902 562037.

WEST BROMWICH, modern bedsits, by town centre, no upfront deposits, DSS 35+ welcome, 07773 256542

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(T&C's below)

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MARIA French female looking for mutually convenient companionship, very friendly, very discreet and very interested in meeting with you! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397451**

PETITE 50yr old likes reading, gardening, outdoors, walking, cycling, seeks companion, 45-55. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393160**

KATHERINE 38, attractive, single, very lonely and looking for love, fun and male companionship. Pls get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397123**

TRISH tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves tlc, WLTM male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397579**

HI I'm Natalie 24, pretty, friendly, single, seeking energetic man for romantic walks, cosy nights in and fun-loving relationship. Any age/looks/race. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397489**

TRACY 26, pretty petite brunette, possibly looking for LTR but definitely looking for fun times with outgoing guy. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397027**

GRACE Jones lookalike, black lady, 53, 5ft 11ins, OHAC, WLTM male, 45-65, 6ft plus for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397681**

LUCY beautiful big bottomed black female, very tactile, seeks mature honest white male for loving fun times. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397389**

CAROLINE attractive, kind, caring, 43, seeking kind, caring male for LTR, 45-50. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396837**

NATASHA single professional 39yr old brunette looking for fun and friendship with genuine guy, 30-50yrs. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395719**

CARLA 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic meals. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396127**

HI I'm Marilyn a blue eyed beauty. Call me if you have a happy outlook and are seeking some fun. Age/looks unimportant. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395665**

JANICE 40, 5ft 5ins, medium build, brown eyes, likes music, cooking, cosy nights in/out, seeks similar male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397407**

LOUISE 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, GSOH, kind, caring, honest, genuine, loving, WLTM male, 43-55 with similar qualities for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 376165**

MANDY 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360317**

ALICIA 19yr old green eyed female, very attractive, slim, long hair, independent, looking for fun with mature male, no time wasters. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 390059**

FARMER'S granddaughter, OHAC, stunningly attractive, respectable, sincere, WLTM countryman/bachelor, 48-62, 5ft 9ins plus, genuine, uncomplicated with GSOH and TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387204**

I'M Julie 36yrs old, attractive, fit, blonde, solvent with OHAC seeking man to spoil and enjoy good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395051**

BLONDE attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818**

CATHY is a slim attractive lady with an open minded attitude to life, she WLTM a man of any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395657**

61YR old lady 5ft 2ins, medium build, long dark hair, smoker, seeks smart gent who wants to get out and about for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396409**

WIDOW 70, genuine, kind, caring, laidback, seeking male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387013**

EASYGOING down to earth female, likes cooking, exploring new things in life, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386893**

LADY young 60, outgoing, friendly, smart, likes cinema, shopping, meals out, seeks similar female friends for days out and evenings. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387117**

PAULINE attractive petite nurse, loves evenings in/out, looking for honest male to share loving friendship and good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 379535**

SARAH 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979**

KAREN witty female who loves to laugh, WLTM similar male to share interests, romance, cosy nights in and more. Pls call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393125**

CARING lady, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-60 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883**

BIG bubbly black female, single mum, looking for male for nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392501**

SUSIE gorgeously feminine and sensual, loves lazy summer days, misses male companionship WLTM someone with sense of adventure and lust for life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394117**

LOUISE youthful looking female looking for spontaneous male to put some love and lust back into life. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392491**

HOME alone with no one to call my own! 38yr old girl looking for fun. Can travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363277**

JOY 36 petite medium build, blue eyes, loves romantic walks, meals in/out, WLTM male 30-45 for meets. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386629**

MAUREEN seeks male 32-45 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 323543**

CHRIS attractive slim sophisticated redhead, seeking male 30-50's to relax with and get to know. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392401**

LOUISE 35, loves meals out, wltm tallish, considerate mature male who is not frightened to express themselves and enjoy life. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395727**

MICHELLE attractive 30's female, blonde, leggy and very much single, seeking quality company, hopefully more with nice romantic male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395717**

CAROLINE 42yrs, slim attractive blonde. Varied interests and solvent. WLTM honest male of any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395675**

SLIM male, seeks lady 35-45, size 12-18, GSOH for friendship, possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394591**

BUBBLY female, 42, young at heart, honest, caring, likes outdoors, cinema, theatre, meals out, seeks likeminded male/soul mate, 40-50. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 357919**

SINGLE MEN

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 65125.

(T&C's below).

TALL dark, good looking male, 53, seeks attractive female for daytime fun and exciting times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393380**

PAUL 47, short brown hair, blue/green eyes, 6ft, slim, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393456**

TALL male, 64, vitality and brain, seeks lady for discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398235**

MALE fun, outgoing, easy-going, seeking female for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393346**

GOOD looking male, early 50's, 6ft, farmer, outgoing, fun loving, seeking attractive fun loving female, 25-35 who enjoys travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393340**

55YR old male, likes sports, film, nights in, seeking female, 30-45 for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398049**

GENT 54, slightly mad but not bad will make you glad you answered this ad. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398231**

STEVEN 49, good looking, likes a laugh, pubs, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397985**

MALE 70's, honest, caring, attractive, likes socialising, seeks smart, attractive, caring lady for meetings. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397975**

DAVID slightly disabled, likes sports, meals out, nights in, seeks female for fun, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393192**

LOOKING for love. Telford male, 46, shaved head, average build, likes walks, meals out, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397941**

STRICTLY come dancing. Male 52, trendy, honest, caring, down to earth, fun loving, seeks petite lady, 45-54. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397163**

STEVE 49, fed up, seeking female for fun and friendship, possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393218**

57YR old male, good looking, seeking female for fun times and nights in. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397463**

59YR old male, 5ft 8ins, seeks younger lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392908**

IAN 44, single dad, loving, caring, honest, seeks similar female, 30-45 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392874**

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Top spec, 07 reg, tax/MoT June 2013, 39,000 miles, silver, fsh, full leather, sat Nav,
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01384 379430 or 07721 098811.

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FIAT PUNTO Sporting, 51 reg, 1200ec, MoT June, six months tax, 86k, excellent condition £895. 07958 768030.

FIAT ULYSEES 7 seater, 2.0 petrol, MoT Jan, Tax end of Dec, VGC, £450 ono. 01902 633422.

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FORD FIESTA 1.1, 5dr, M reg, long MoT, tax, CD, low miles, good, clean car, £395 ono. 07925 309033.

FORD FIESTA Firefly, 2004, 2Dr, red, long MoT and tax, good condition, some history, £1,395. 07827 495317.

FORD FIESTA GHIA, 1.25, 2000, 12 months MoT, six months tax, 5-dr, £650. 07796 985796.

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PEUGEOT 106 1.1 petrol, 52 reg, 60K miles, full MoT, tax 03/13, silver/blue, good condition, £1,100. 01902 675181.

PEUGEOT 206 red, 53 reg, 64,000 miles, tax April, MoT July, £2,000 ono. 01902 448768 - 07890 587798.

PEUGEOT 206LX 51reg, 69k, 3dr, black, 11mths MoT, one former owner, £900. 07407 792049.

PEUGEOT 307 LX 1.4, 2001 reg, 5-dr, cheap Tax / Insurance, Metallic blue. Excellent all round, £1,500. 07842 148425.

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ROVER 25 1.4 tax/MoT, all leather, excellent condition £900 ono. 0121 561 4272.

ROVER 25 Y reg., tax & MoT, 4 new tyres, new clutch, good runner, excellent condition £550. 01902 785407 / 07966 435698.

ROVER 420 SDI TURBO, 1998, 91,000 miles, silver, fsh, MoT, diesel, tax, £425. 07846 284143.

ROVER 45 52 plate, met blue, history plus cambelt, EW, AC, MoT, £990 ono 07974 498702.

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VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 Tax, MoT, black, 3-door, 53 plate, petrol. £1,200 ono Wolverhampton 07944 343484.

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VAUXHALL VECTRA 1800 W reg, 79k, silver, MoT Jun, tax Feb, good condition £650. 07424 014880 / 01902 345717.

VAUXHALL VECTRA W reg, genuine low miles 70k, has been good runner, MoT, tax, £450 ono. Please call 07969 577994.

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VW GOLF 1800, Racing Green, 1996, 4 months MoT, FSH, alloys, immaculate, S/R, electrics, pas, stereo. £650 ono. 01902 753375.

VW GOLF, black, Mark 4, 1.6, W reg, all electrics, alarm, MoT July 2013, sunroof, tax Jan, CD, petrol, vgc, £1,250. 01902 732379.

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Don't cut corners on road safety this winter

AS UK motorists continue to cut corners on car maintenance due to the economic pinch, GEM Motoring Assist, road safety organisation and breakdown cover company, is launching its winter driving campaign to increase awareness of the potential dangers on the roads, particularly as temperatures start to drop and conditions worsen across the country.

According to GEM, it is never too early to get your vehicle fully prepared for the wintery weather and the company is continuing to offer practical advice via its free winter driving leaflet.

Packed full of advice and checklists, the leaflet is a useful resource for motorists and aims to help prevent drivers from being a victim of a serious accident or hazardous breakdown situation during the winter period.

Last year, the company also launched a winter driving video, providing easy online access to its winter driving advice.

Featuring visual scenes on winter driving, the four-minute video highlights how dramatically driving dynamics change as the conditions worsen.

The video demonstrates how much more time and space should be allowed when driving in wintery conditions, as stopping distances increase tenfold and the slightest over-steering or braking can cause complete loss of control.

GEM chief executive, David Williams MBE, says: "Each year, we work hard to provide crucial information and advice to keep drivers safe on the roads. Carrying out the necessary checks ahead of the winter weather, and being properly prepared, could make all the difference between a safe journey and one that could potentially end in disaster.

Negative

"We know that tighter budgets and rocketing fuel costs have had a negative impact on motorists' car maintenance habits, as many see it as a low priority in these tough times, however, this lack of care will undoubtedly make cars less reliable, and driving an unsafe vehicle puts drivers, passengers, and other road users in unnecessary danger.

"Not only is it important for drivers to be ready for winter but they must also be aware of the changes in driving dynamics, which is why we created the online winter driving video. We hope that the combination of the leaflet and video will give motorists all the advice they need for a safe winter on the roads," David concludes.

GEM's winter driving checklist:

1. Check that your vehicle is properly maintained and fully serviced.

2. Ensure tyres have plenty of tread depth, are in good condition, and correctly inflated (don't forget the spare).

3. Radiators must contain anti-freeze and also check that the cooling system is free from leaks.

4. Batteries must be in good condition (many garages/battery suppliers will carry out this check free-of-charge).

5. Ensure windscreen wipers and washers are working effectively.

6. Washer bottles must be full and contain anti-freezing/ cleaning additive.

7. Clean all lights and check they are all working properly.

8. All windows and mirrors must be clean and clear from snow and ice before driving.

9. Keep fluorescent/ high visibility jackets in the car, in case of a breakdown situation.

10. Store extra clothes or blankets in the vehicle, in case of a breakdown.

● Download and a print a free copy of the GEM Motoring Assist 'Winter driving' leaflet at motoringassist.com/leaflets or call 01342 825676 for a hard copy. View the GEM 'Winter driving' video at motoringassist.com/motoring-advice/videos.

Take a few small steps to stay safe on the roads

Make sure that you get your vehicle prepared for the difficult conditions as winter approaches

Make maintenance of your car a priority

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Scrappy win even with Kings hitting six

Droitwich 2 Kingswinford 6

KINGSWINFORD men's hockey firsts recorded another victory, but in a scrappy affair at Droitwich.

Kings, whose match last week was postponed, looked uncomfortable throughout and did not recreate their current form despite the scoreline.

They took the lead after 15 minutes when Guneet Uppal jumped on a rebound and finished neatly with a reverse stick effort.

This seemed to rouse Droitwich who scored twice to put themselves ahead.

But Cole Hickman and Billy Jawanda cut through with some neat one-twos for the latter to level the score.

Minutes before the break Kings were awarded a penalty flick which was converted by Ajay Sandhu.

The second half was much better. Jawanda grabbed his second goal, smashing home from the top of the D after some good passing by Sam George and Kam Mann.]Shortly after, Bal Lally collected a rebound from a short corner and flicked past a stranded keeper before Sandhu converted another penalty flick when he was fouled in the 'D'.

Leamington 4 Kingswinford 1

Kings seconds slumped to another defeat, but deserved to take something from the fixture.

With more than 70 per cent of the play, Kingswinford were unable to make their dominance count.

Leamington scored the first goal on five minutes and added a second on 10 minutes.

Kings then pitched camp in Leamington's half, winning seven short corners. Despite straight shots, drag-flicks and scoops, they were unable to beat the outstanding home goalkeeper.

The start of the second half saw Leamington add a third goal. Kingswinford went close through Ravi Johal, Jas Bhadal, Surjit Takhar and Daman Johal.

Finally, Kings scored with their 10th short corner.

Daman Johal's drag-flick went directly at the keeper but he was alert enough to collect the rebound and hammer it home.

Despite Kingswinford's pressure it was too little too late. Leamington added a fourth goal on the stroke of full-time via a short corner, despite the best efforts of Kuli Toora to stop the shot on the line.

Despair for U14s with last-kick winner

Stourbridge Youth

Stourbridge U11 2 CS Colts U11 0

STOURBRIDGE gave a good all-round team performance to overturn CS Colts' 100 per cent record. Stourbridge failed to capitalise on first-half chances. They scored in the second period through Jordan Edwards and Jack Tighe.

Stratford Town U12 1
Stourbridge U12A 4

Two goals from James Welch helped Stourbridge fight back from a goal down. Rohan Brown and Alex Walters also scored.

Heath Hayes U13 0
Stourbridge U13A 2

After a poor first half, Stourbridge played some impressive football in the second period and scored through James Timmins and Aaron Finnegan.

Stourbridge U14A 2 CS Colts U14 3

Stoubridge battled back to lead after trailing 1-0 only for CS Colts to secure the victory. Stourbridge looked strong down the centre through Luke Groves and Alex Lowe but the Colts' progressive style and good movement caused problems and they took the lead.

Stourbridge equalised when Groves capped a good run with a fine finish. Home keeper Niall Maher kept Stourbridge in it and they went ahead when Owen Taylor's through ball put Groves away for a centre which Jonny Hooper put away. Maher made two further good saves, but the Colts equalised and then won it with the last kick of the game.

Boldmere Falcons U14 3
Stourbridge U14B 1

Alex Lowe's deliveries from wide out provided five chances that went begging for Stourbridge. Boldmere got the first half's only goal and added a second after the break as Stourbridge failed to turn their possession into opportunities. Liam Campbell collected a long ball and lofted it over the keeper to get a goal back, but a defensive mix-up saw the home side seal the game with a third.

Stourbridge U15 Girls 6
Boldmere Falcons U15 Girls 1

Stourbridge started slowly but then picked up to hit six. Chelsea Cad's pass put Poppy Hughes away to slide the ball into the net past the advancing keeper for the opening goal. Hughes tapped in the second when the Boldmere keeper fumbled a Georgia Harris free-kick. Holly Bartleet added the third with a cool finish. In the second half, Hughes squared the ball for a calm finish by Lauren Denbury and Ashleigh Westwood struck to make it five. He then missed a penalty and Boldmere got a goal back. Stourbridge had the last word when Lauren Baker fired home a fine left-foot shot.

Stourbridge U16A 1 Leamington U16 2

Stourbridge suffered a disappointing 2-1 defeat to undefeated Leamington, despite taking the lead midway through the first half.

Other results: Stourbridge U15A 1 Burton U15 4, Stourbridge U15B 1 Phoenix U15 4, Stourbridge U17 Girls 6 Halas Hawks U17 Girls 4.

Athletic slip again but stay unbeaten

Gornal Athletic 1
Heather St Johns 1

GORNAL failed to close out the game again after taking the lead and dropped another two points. But they did extend their unbeaten run in the Midland Alliance to 10 games.

The home side had the better chances in the first 15 minutes of the game.

A Lee Wherton free-kick was not cleared; Mike Perks' shot was saved by Saints keeper Pete Maguire and Conner Gater put the loose ball over the bar.

A through ball from Matt Weyman found Calum Martin in space, but his shot was well saved by Maguire.

Gornal took control of the latter stages of the first half and, on the stroke of half-time, got the opening goal.

Gater won possession near the left corner flag and found substitute Gurd Wilkhoo, who was allowed to cut inside his marker and hit a shot from 20 yards which found the top corner of the Heather net.

The visitors equalised on 70 minutes. Some poor defending by Gornal allowed Joe Price to volley home a Jordan Holmes cross.

Saints were denied a second goal when Conal Powell followed in to score from a rebound but was judged offside.

Gornal pressed for all three points but could not find a winner.

Pearl's a winner with these five-try Saxons

Stourbridge Saxons

Leicester Lions 12 Stourbridge Saxons 31

LEICESTER LIONS took this National League Two North match to Stourbridge, providing arguably their most physical challenge yet.

But a workmanlike performance by the visitors was enough not only to score five tries but also prevent the Lions from crossing their try line.

The match highlights included a welcome return from injury for Ben Barkley and a man-of-the-match performance from hooker Stewart Pearl.

The hosts opened the scoring with an early penalty before Nigel Mukarati spotted a mismatch in the defensive line and was able to drive deep into the hosts' 22. Recycled ball was worked quickly right where a deft offload from captain Nathan Bressington found Tom Jarvis in support to score.

Saxons' pressure forced a rash of defensive penalties from Leicester and eventually their full-back picked up a yellow card for killing the ball.

Lovely

The hosts lifted the siege following a controversial refereeing call against the Saxons attacking scrum.

But the ball was then run back at them from depth in a lovely move that went the width of the pitch several times and through 11 pairs of hands before Robbie Hurrell crashed over in the corner, Jamie Hearn converting.

The Saxons then ran the restart straight back, Sione Tu'ipolotu's drive pulling in the defenders to enable Jarvis to scorch around his marker and score under the posts. Hearn converted, but the Saxons had to tread water for the rest of the half with Ben Barkley in the sin bin for a late tackle. They led 19-3 at the break.

The hosts responded with two penalties and Will Hurrell drew a yellow card for not rolling away at the tackle.

But Drew Harper then blasted through the defensive line from 30m out for the bonus-point fourth try.

Leicester landed a further penalty goal before trying to run the ball out of their own 22. When they coughed it up following a Mukarati tackle, the Saxons simply stretched the defence before James Rodley took a crash ball to score the final try.

Coach Mike Umaga said: "We were worth our win. We can grind it out where necessary, but we scored some lively long-range tries by putting the ball through the hands."

Stourbridge Saxons' Will Hurrell breaks through a tackle and has Pete White and Ejike Uzoigwe in support

Robbie Hurrell after scoring his first try of the season

Tom Jarvis shows a clean pair of heels to score

Determined DK ambition wins praise

Dudley Kingswinford 15 Hull 13

DUDLEY skipper Ed Parry hailed his side's determination taking a tight match.

Handling errors blighted DK's National Two North encounter in which Gareth Bown and Gregory Lound exchanged penalties before a Nicholas Murphy try, converted by Bown, put DK seven points up.

Lound kicked another penalty and added the extras after Stephen Slingsby crossed for 13-10 to Hull.

Nicholas Adams crossed for DK after 56 minutes and they held a two-point advantage to the final whistle.

"We showed great 'dog' in deserved back-to-back wins," said Parry. "It is a great sign of this team's ambition to come through and win such a tight game."

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SPORT

Pink power
Five tries as Saxons tame the Lions
Page 39

Six-hitters
Kings get the goals – but it's scrappy
Page 39

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Easy win despite missed chances

Causeway United 2
Coventry Sphinx 0

THIS was a relatively easy Midland Alliance win for Causeway, who missed a penalty and hit the woodwork twice, as well as spurning a number of other chances.

Causeway were on top from the start and took the lead on five minutes when Stuart How broke into the visitors' penalty area and applied a neat finish.

Four minutes later Scott Stevenson saw his shot hit the post but on 12 minutes it was two when Aaron Lloyd rose well to convert Stevenson's long cross into the box from the right.

When How hit the post on 31 minutes with Lloyd fluffing the rebound it looked like just a matter of time before Causeway scored again, although Coventry had the last two chances of the half, with shots from Matthew Bannister and Harry White being saved by Tom Turner.

A third goal for Causeway could have come in the 52nd minute when Lloyd pulled the ball back from the byline and How was brought down in the box by Ashley Jackson, but Carl O'Neill saved his penalty .

Adam Bilic and White again went close for Coventry as did Stevenson, Steve Poole and substitute Stefan Ashman for Causeway in the latter stages.

Town's wait is now over

Dudley Sp 0 Dudley Tn 2

DUDLEY TOWN picked up their first West Midlands Premier points at Hillcrest Avenue since August 2008.

Both sides made lively starts, but it was high-flying Town who started to dictate.

Former Gornal Athletic forward Geoff Hill went close but Sports' Sam Pearson tipped his fierce shot around the post.

A Danny Ludlow corner in the 40th minute was headed goal-bound by Ross Love and despite an attempted goal-line clearance, referee Matt Perry and his assistant judged the ball to have crossed the line.

They could have had a second on 58 minutes but Danny Ludlow's penalty was saved. On 73 minutes Hill broke down the right and delivered a low cross for Rion Francis-Mills to score.

Pearson saved a powering strike from Todd Warner.

Punching postman Chris vows to deliver title

by Craig Birch

PUNCHING postman Chris Male has vowed to "deliver" the English title in front of his home fans at Dudley's The Venue.

Chris – 'The Male Man' – tackles Leeds' Josh Warrington over 10 rounds for the vacant featherweight crown tomorrow night with both unbeaten.

The belt has not been contested for six years and the 30-year-old, from Cradley, has seen three previous title fights fall through but his big night is nearly here.

He has chased his shot for 18 months and been out of the ring for 14 months, through injury and inactivity but feels he's still fighting fit and ready for the biggest fight of a four-year pro career, which has yielded 11 straight victories.

He said: "I feel the best I have felt, my fitness has just gone through the roof.

"My speed, sharpness and power are perfectly on schedule. I have just got to hold it all now so, on fight night, I will be ready to go. Once the first bell goes, all of that frustration will go away.

"That's where I want to be, it's been a nightmare to get here and that belt has been all I have been thinking about for over 12 months.

"I will be a dangerous man, I have got to go out there and deliver. He's unbeaten, but put me in a pressure position and I will deliver.

"I feel fighters perform at their best when they are challenged and I know nothing less than my best will be good enough on the night.

"I will be at my best and I can't afford to lose this fight, so I will win."

Male twice lined up to meet Joe Murray for the English title and was willing to box away each time – in Newport and Bolton.

The whole bill was called off the first time against Murray last November and, the second time, in February, Male was injured. After recovering from a torn rotator cuff, a match with Jon Fernandes was booked for last month but called off due to poor ticket sales.

Male said: "It's kind of ironic that the fight has ended up in Dudley, really it has worked out the best for me. It's the biggest fight around here for years. If I can bring this English title to Dudley, it would give the whole area a boost."

Tomorrow's event is a dinner show. Passes just to watch are £30 and meal tickets £60. Details are available on 01384 453104 or 07964 722736.

GLASSBOYS LADS TO FACE BIGGEST GAME

ASSISTANT boss Gary Brown today hailed Stourbridge's FA Youth Cup clash with Bradford as the biggest game in their history.

The Glassboys kids' historic run has earned them a home second-round clash with the League Two club next week.

It is the furthest they have ever gone and echoes the seniors' run to the FA Cup second round last year when they beat Plymouth live on ESPN.

That adventure finally ended when Stourbridge went out of the competition to League One Stevenage.

by Nick Mashiter

Brown, who has been in charge with boss Dave King for five seasons, is relishing the Bradford tie.

"It's the biggest game they've ever had," he said.

"We've never been this far before."

Stourbridge's previous best effort was a 3-0 first-round defeat to Grimsby in 2010.

"This is our fifth season and we've been successful over the last few years and won some trophies – but we've never been this far in the Cup," Brown said.

"Bradford are training on a day-to-day basis – but I think we'll give them a game.

Clash

"It's a one-off game, so who knows?"

Premier League clubs enter the competition at the next stage. But there's no clash with the future stars yet for Stourbridge.

The draw for the next round has already been made and the winners of the Stourbridge/Bradford clash host Crawley or Histon in the next round.

However, Brown said should they beat Bradford, the next tie gives them a great chance of reaching the fourth round and playing one of the big boys.

"We could have got Liverpool, Arsenal or Chelsea but now it gives us another chance to progress and then maybe get a big tie in the fourth round," he added.

They have knocked out Nuneaton Griff, Coleshill, Chasetown and Dunkirk with striker Jordan Murphy hitting a hat-trick in the 4-1 win over Dunkirk.

And the team, who play in the Midlands Floodlit Premier League South, will prepare at the Copthorne Hotel, Merry Hill, on Wednesday afternoon to give them the best possible chance.

Brown said: "We're trying to do it properly so they won't have to spend all day in college. They need to enjoy it, because they know it's not a chance which comes around too often at youth team level.

"We've told them to relax, enjoy it, play their football and remember the moment. That's all they can do."

Kick-off is on Wednesday, November 14 (7.30pm) at the War Memorial Ground with adult admission price £3, concessions £2 and children £1.

Stourbridge Youth match reports – Page 39

Stourbridge Youth face the camera before their big match next week. Back, from left, physio Derek Cronin, coach Simon Wilkes, Conner Stephenson, Chris Neilson, Dan Wells, captain Kieron Morris, Dom Richards, Jordan Murphy, Sam Tye, Alistair McCue, Reece Hughes, assistant manager Gary Brown and administration manager Keith Grainger. Front, from left, manager Dave King, Nathan Myers, Eric Kucerak, Jonathan McKenzie, Josh Garbett, Ashley Horton, Ben Davies, Olly Staton, Josh Morgan Parker and Tom Overfield.

Goal glut end to points famine

Weymouth 1 Stourbridge 5

STOURBRIDGE ended a disappointing run of only one point from four Evo-Stik Southern Premier games with an away win over a Weymouth side that ended the match with only nine men.

Sam Poole and Kyle Critchell's dismissals left the hosts heading for a heavy defeat. A dreary first period exploded into life in the five minutes leading up to half-time.

The Glassboys enjoyed decent possession in the opening fifteen minutes without really threatening – coming closest in the 15th minute as a Nathan Bennett header was comfortably save d by goalkeeper Simon Evans.

Four minutes before the break a throw-in by Paul McCone found Drew Canavan and, although his initial pass was blocked, the ball rebounded to his feet and he clipped a pass to Luke Benbow. An excellent first-time flick took him away from his marker toscore with a powerful low angled drive.

On the stroke of half-time Weymouth equalised as Mark Ford accelerated away from Bennett and Sam Smith before sending a low shot past keeper Lewis Solly from just outside the box.

Straight from the restart Stourbridge's Canavan lifted a pass towards Luke Benbow who volleyed first-time across looking for the burst into the box of Leon Broadhurst who was brought down by Poole. As well as the penalty the defender was red-carded.

Sean Geddes sent the keeper the wrong way. In the second half a Critchell tackle saw him play the ball first but, with feet off the ground, catch Sam Rock with his follow-through.

The referee's red card left the home side playing the remaining 40 minutes two men short and The Glassboys upped the tempo.

On 70 minutes, Sean Evans sent in a low centre that Walker failed to cut out and Rock hit a rising shot into the roof of the net.

Six minutes later, Billingham turned inside past Ben Joyce before tucking away the ball. Four minutes later, Stourbridge made it five as Sean Evans swept a first-time low drive past the goalkeeper from just inside the box.

Player up but it's no advantage

STOURBRIDGE B chess team succumbed at home to Rugeley in Division Two of the Wolverhampton League.

Rugeley were one player short, giving the home team an immediate one-point advantage.

But Stourbridge lost on the top two boards against stronger opposition. The remaining three lower boards were all drawn, so Stourbridge lost 3.5-2.5.

Both teams were understrength when Stourbridge A travelled to Kynoch for a Birmingham League Division Two match.

Two boards were drawn swiftly but Stourbridge's Eric Horwill, who had had an advantage, then made an error and lost.

However, Stourbridge look well-placed on all three adjourned boards.

Dave Scriven, under attack and in serious time trouble, played a fine combination to leave him with an advantage. Steve Jukes adjourned with a significant material advantage. Colin Woodall appears to have saved his game in an unbalanced position.

Any interested players should call 01384 423642 or visit www.stourbridgechess.f9.co.uk

Fullwell falls at the first round

STOURBRIDGE'S Nick Fullwell went out in the first round of the latest stop on darts' PDC Pro Tour at the K2 Centre, Crawley, on Sunday.

He had chances against Michael Barnard in the Players Championship, but failed to capitalise. Dropping legs at crucial times left Fullwell chasing the game and he went out 6-2.

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